Fitzgerald, Ga., Leader-Enterprise
August 21, 1947

Colored Ex-GI's Plan Farm Class In Ben Hill County

Twenty-six colored ex-GI's met with the vocational agriculture instructor, David Spearman, August 8, at Queensland High school.

The purpose of the meeting was organizing a veterans farm class under the GI bill of rights, Public Law 346.

Edward H. Baxter, officer in charge of the local office of the Veterans administration, was unable to be present, due to the fact that he administers four counties and had other business to attend.

H. D. Heath and James Edge gave the veterans a short lecture on cooperation and maintaining helpful military practice in civilian life.

A few of those qualified who were present are Nathan Everson, Robell Bonford, Charly H. Jones, Artis Thomas, Nathaniel Steer, Kelly Youngblood, Joe Floyd, Jr., Walter McBurrows, Raleigh Turner, Curtis Wilcox, Johnny F. Cook, Bryant E. Wilcox, Ashley Brown, Homer Wilcox, Thorton Lester, John R. Edwards, Samuel L. Edwards, John H. Mathis, Jimmy L. Edmonson, Hayward Ferguson and Walter Wilcox.

All other colored veterans who are interested in farming next year with the farm training program under the GI bill of rights and live in this vicinity are asked to meet with the group August 22 at Queensland school, 8 p.m.

David Spearman Vocational Agriculture Instructor.

Peanut Farmers Charge Cheating

Tenants in Ga. Think Owners Fake Weights

AMERICUS, Ga. — (ANP) Colored sharecroppers and tenants in Sumter County and near here say they are not getting a square deal on their peanut crops.

This is a heavy peanut producing area, big planters have switched from cotton to peanuts, and there are hundreds of tenant families who rent the land and more who sharecrop, working for half they produce.

Their complaint is that at harvest time, the planters big trucks come to the farms, gather up the peanuts and take them to the mill where they are weighed, graded and sold.

Weight Complaint

The tenants and sharecroppers feel they are not getting a square deal as far as the weights of their peanuts are concerned. Sumter County always has been one of the bad spots in Georgia.

It is not customery for tenants and sharecroppers to follow the trucks to the mills and check on weights themselves, in fact there is a feeling that such activity would be distinctly unhealthy.

They are being urged to protest to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Back in 1937 when cotton was being grown, 38 cases were investigated here and restitution made. Production costs are going up and planters are inclined to take it out on the tenants.

Phillip T. Mullens of NYC, is here

Columbus, Ga., Enquirer-Sun
January 7, 1947

Editorial Comment

A FINE EXAMPLE

An indication that North Carolina is coming nearer to the goal of balanced agriculture is seen in the news that Negro farmers are buying dairy cows with their cotton and tobacco money.

These Negro farmers are setting an example that might well be followed throughout the state, because one of the curses of southern agriculture has been the dependence upon the cash crops of cotton and tobacco. This system not only wore out the soil, but also made it necessary for farm families to buy food that they could just as well have raised at home.

Another indication in the same news item is that farmers in the eastern part of the state are putting more emphasis on feed crops, particularly hay, to feed the dairy cattle they are buying.

That, too, has been one of the weaknesses of North Carolina agriculture. Farmers in this state frequently buy hay from as far away as Michigan and pay high freightage costs on it, when they could have raised it in their own fields.

More power to these Negro farmers. They will help us arrive at that agricultural balance which will make every farm a self-supporting unit except for certain staples.

And, better still, it will make farming a way of life, as well as of livelihood.—Charlotte Observer.

Columbia, S. C., State
June 14, 1947

Negro Farmer Presents Darlington's First Cotton Bloom of Year

Darlington, June 13—(Special)—Darlington county's first cotton bloom of the 1947 season was reported here this morning by Duncan McLain, Negro of the Philadelphia community. The bloom was being exhibited in the office of O. O. Dukes, Darlington county agent.

McLain lives at Jack's Bay, near here, and has several acres of cotton planted.

Sweet Potato Offers South Edge In Beef Production

The Advertiser Montgomery

By ATTICUS MULLIN

Alabama has as great, if not greater, possibilities as a sweet potato producing state as any state in the South, according to Dr. Julian C. Miller, of Louisiana State University, the man who has developed more than 1,800 varieties of sweet potatoes and who is known as the greatest developer of new and improved varieties of sweet potatoes in the world. Thurs. 1-23-47

Dr. Miller made his statement on the Wadsworth farm in Autauga County yesterday afternoon where he came to inspect 1,800 bushels of pedigreed number one seed sweet potatoes produced on the Wadsworth farm and which are for sale to potato growers in Alabama. Dr. Miller inspected both the potato shed and the seed potatoes and pronounced both as top-notch. He bred the potatoes that were produced on the Wadsworth farm. They are known as Louisiana copper-skin, Unit 1, Puerto Rican potatoes which were first released by Dr. Miller after long experimentation at Louisiana State University in 1935. The first of these potatoes in Alabama were raised at the Atmore prison farm in 1944 and the Wadsworths got the seed in 1945.

Sees Opportunity

"You have here in south Alabama," said Dr. Miller, "the opportunity to develop a $30,000,000 to $40,000,000 crop. Your land is suited to the growth of sweet potatoes. The Wadsworth brothers produced 250 bushels of number 1 potatoes to the acre besides 100 bushels of less than number 1 potatoes which went into animal food, canning, etc.

Meet Competition

"Our chance of meeting Western competition in the production of beef depends upon our ability to grow protein food for cattle. The answer can be found in sweet potatoes. Louisiana produced a $25,000,000 crop of potatoes in 1946, more than $15,000,000 worth of edible potatoes and the balance going into canning and for dehydration for animal food. You can do that here without a doubt. Would you like another $25,000,000 crop in Alabama? Well, if you would, develop your sweet potato tonnage.

View Supported

Haygood Paterson, the new commissioner of agriculture, with his assistant, Frank Stewart, attended the inspection of the Wadsworth seed sweet potato shed. Mr. Paterson, a long-time friend of Dr. Miller, said that not only was Dr. Miller right in saying Alabama could raise sweet potatoes as well as Louisiana, but he thought we could raise more. "We have more acreage that will produce sweet potatoes profitably than any other Southeastern State," said Mr. Paterson. "If we are going to raise cattle, we must raise cattle feed—and sweet potatoes are the answer.

Many men interested in promoting the agricultural development of Alabama were present at the Wadsworth farm when the greatest sweet potato scientist in the world. Dr. Miller, inspected the seed potatoes. Among them, besides Haygood Paterson and Frank Stewart, were V. W. Lewis, general livestock agent of the Atlantic Coast Line; Paul Fuller, of the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce; A. A. Nettles, of the Peterman Agricultural Company; Claude Hardy, of Beatrice, agricultural vocation teacher; Donald Pearson, of Beatrice, seed grower; A. P. Whitten (Red), Atmore prison farm; Charley Summerour, American Potash Institute; Coyt Wilson, Auburn Experiment Station; M. L. Batson, of the T. C. I. Company, of Birmingham; O. H. Bowden, of the Farm Products Department of the T. C. I., Birmingham; O. O. Whitcomb, farm products department of the T. C. I., Birmingham, and many others.

The Wadsworth brothers, operators of the Wadsworth farms, are Jack, Conrad and Edward. They are among the most advanced farmers and cattle raisers in Alabama.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
March 24, 1947

NEGRO FARM AGENTS SHOW CROP PROGRESS

Home production and conservation of the family food supply, livestock production, and crop production, high-lighted the activities of Negro county Extension workers in 43 North Carolina counties in 1946, according to a recent report to Director I. O. Schaub of the State College Extension Service by R. E. Jones, Negro State Agent, Greensboro.

With the assistance of county farm agents, 129 farmers purchased purebred bulls, and 679 secured purebred or high grade cows and heifers to build dairy herds in 387 communities in 37 counties.

To produce cheaper pork and maintain a better hog quality, 151 families purchased purebred boars and 300 obtained purebred or high grade females.

In poultry, 2,638 families secured a better strain of chicks for home production of eggs and poultry, and in one county alone, more than 15,000 baby chicks were purchased by Negro farm families.

A total of 15,835 farm women were active members of home demonstration clubs in 43 counties. They canned fruits, vegetables, and meats for their families in the amount of 1,830,328 quarts of fruit, 2,063,311 cans of vegetables, and 315,017 quarts of meat and fish.

"Although the job of our Extension agents is a full-time one," Jones said, "the 89 men and women found time to co-operate with other agencies in getting much needed information and action with Negro farm families on program of public interest."

ROBERT QUILLEN

The Constitution Sent 3-7 1a 47

Blessing In Disguise

A Georgia farmer has something to say that may be of interest to readers of these pieces.

He writes: "If you wish to learn what is the matter with the South right now, come down to visit me and let me drive you through the country. Sent 3-9-47

"You will ride mile after mile without seeing an acre that was tended last year. The only crop was grass and weeds. In a few more years the land will be covered with volunteer seedling pines.

"DO YOU know the reason? For almost two hundred years the South has been an agricultural region, with colored people doing most of the field work. The war brought a boom in industry, and field hands and tenants moved to town. Greatest Show

"If you have read about the poor share croppers, you may think our colored people left the land to make more money. Maybe some of them did, but that is not the whole story.

"The ones who left this neighborhood to work in the city are getting $25 a week or less—say $1,200 a year. And they have to pay for rent and lights and water, and can't have a garden or chickens or a pig. Sent 3-9-47

"The ones who stayed on the farm got an average of 35 cents for their cotton. That's $175 a bale, plus the value of the seed. I know plenty of Negroes who cleared over $1,200, and they didn't have city expenses to pay.

"Why do they prefer the city? A good man who has been with me for thirty years was talking for most of them when he said to me: 'Captain Billy, colored people like to work where they are happy. I'd rather work for two dollars a day where I'm happy than to make ten dollars a day where I ain't happy.'

"NEGROES are gregarious and don't like to work alone. The city fascinates them and most of them will stay there. I don't believe many of them will ever come back to the farm.

"That means a lot of Southern farmers have got to change to crops they can work alone with the help of machinery or give up and let the land stay idle. The old days are gone and they aren't coming back."

If that proves true, it may be a blessing in disguise. Numbers of new fibers will soon be in the market and they can be manufactured or produced cheaper than anybody can grow cotton. Smaller farmers in the South may be forced to produce other crops.

The effect of such a change would not be confined to the South. A few million more acres devoted to hay or gain crops, corn and hogs, dairying or beef cattle or sheep, would provide competition not welcomed by the Middle West.

Colored watermelon farmer discovers more profitable production method

Los Angeles, Calif.

NAVASOTA, Tex. — Dan Bennett, colored farmer here, has discovered a new method of growing watermelons through which he has grossed nearly $25,000 during the last five years, reports W. C. David, Texas state leader of Negro agricultural extension work.

Getting into watermelon production as a sharecropper in 1941, Bennett has now become through the development of his novel seed treatment method, one of the outstanding melon growers of Texas. Annually, he ships from 8 to 12 carloads of top grade melons, David said.

Until six years ago, Bennett had never thought of growing melons as a commercial crop. He was satisfied to grow a few to eat, but that was all; cotton was his crop. He was 49 and had been growing cotton all his life.

However Bennett's house and barn were badly in need of repair, and his workstock had dwindled to one solitary mule. With his cotton yield small and the price none too good, he didn't have the money to make the necessary repairs.

For years county agent Leonidas Watson had been trying to get Bennett and the other farmers to diversify. A few were trying it. Some were raising hogs, chickens, turkeys, and cucumbers for the Houston market. Bennett's own

Sent 3-8-47

1a

30 acres were being worn out growing cotton, corn and sorghum year after year.

From 15 acres of melons the first year, Farmer Bennett received as his share after the sale nearly $1,000. The next year he and his neighbor planted 20 acres

melons, shipping them to northern markets. Kibune

1941, a white neighbor of Bennett's suggested that they grow a crop of melons on halves. Ben-

as to furnish the labor and ghbor the land, seed, work- and tools. Bennett's own

of melons and Bennett's half came to $1,800. He began to see that there was money in melons and he began to ask himself why should he sharecrop when he owned 30 acres of land that were now bringing a very poor return.

In 1943 Bennett went on his own. But that year he got his crop to market a little late and didn't get a good price.

Bennett got to thinking. The only way to get his melons to the market earlier so as to get a premium price was to get his crop started earlier. Eventually he hit upon a method. Sat. 8-2-47

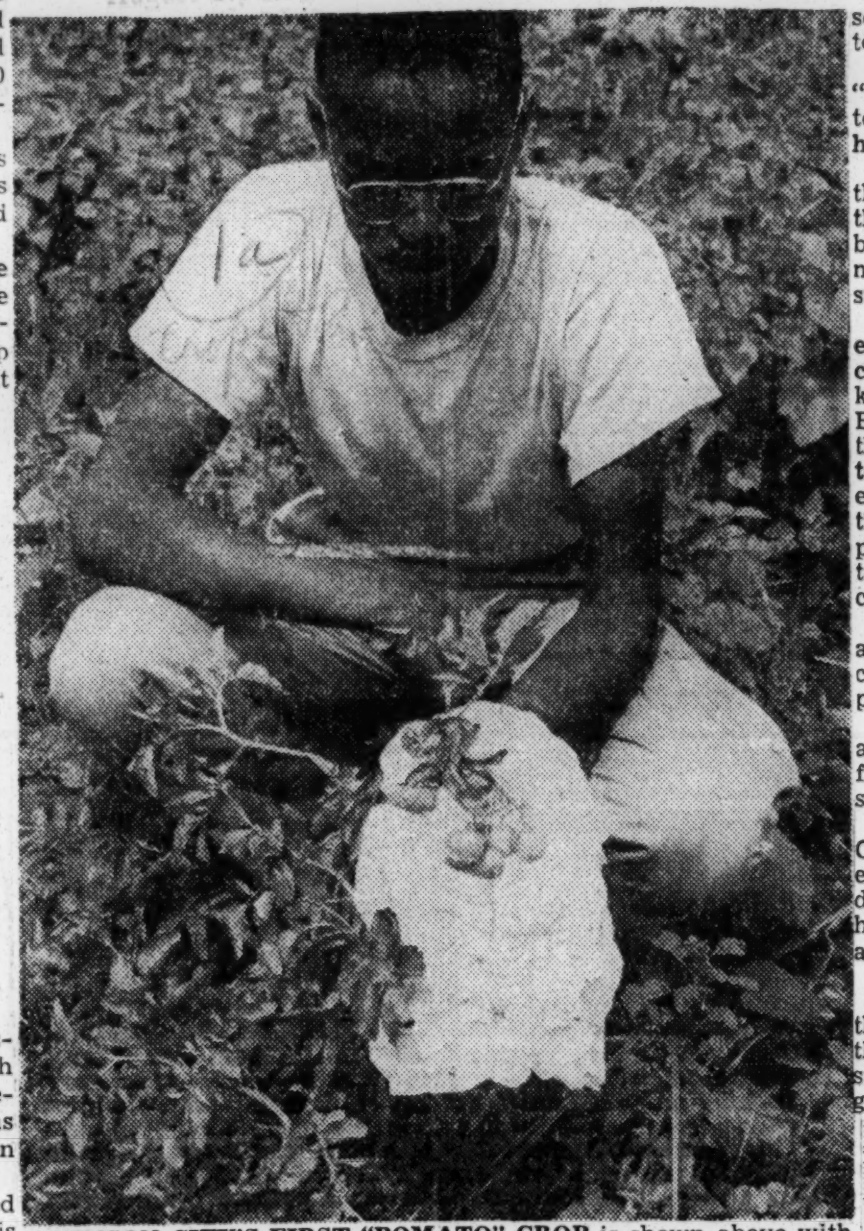
After three years of refinement, the method is essentially this: About a week before planting time, Bennett digs a hole in his backyard about 18 inches wide and two feet deep. Then he pours in a couple of buckets full of boiling water. When it has soaked in, he places his melon seed in a flour sack and puts the sack of seed inside a burlap bag and buries it in the hole. Each day for about a week he pours warm water over the seed. At the end of the week he digs up his seed and plants them in his field. Results: His melons sprout almost immediately and his crop is ready for market from one to three weeks ahead of some of his neighbors.

The farmer has not kept his discovery a secret. By sharing it with his neighbors, his county is becoming one of the early Texas watermelon markets for northern buyers.

Snce 1944, Bennett has planted 25 acres to melons each year. His yield has ranged from 8 to 12 carloads, and his returns from $5,000 to $8,000. Sat. 8-2-47

With the extra income, Bennett has not only repaired his barn and built a new home, but also has increased the size of his farm from 30 to 125 acres. County agent Watson has helped him plan a balanced farming program. Bennett doesn't depend entirely on melons. This year he is growing corn, cotton, grain, sorghum, hay, wax beans, cucumbers, and sweet potatoes besides raising chickens and a few hogs.

Johnson City Tenn. Chronicle
August 17, 1947



JOHNSON CITY'S FIRST "POMATO" CROP is shown above with its creator, Grady Blalock, Jr., Langston High School freshman, at his garden, 216 Myrtle avenue. The small, green tomatoes shown on potato vines resting on a handkerchief, have regular size potatoes under the ground, believe it or not. (Staff Photo By Jim Ellis)

City Negro Grows Tomatoes On Same Vine With Potatoes

By PAUL R. SMITH

The old Navy slanguage cry, "there's a tomato in the potato locker" is personified in the garden of a 16-year-old Negro high school boy, Grady Blalock, Jr., 216 Myrtle avenue, and quite inadvertently there was established Johnson City's first "pomato" garden.

Believe it or not, there are tomatoes growing on potato vines above the ground, and potatoes below. And too, there's a whole row of these unorthodox garden specimens, but minus the feminine angle of the seagoing lingo.

Some vow "there's no such animal," but there they are, green tomatoes about the size of English walnuts, and about the color. Definitely light green or light in color, but tomatoes none-the-less.

Some of the potatoes are crowding themselves above the ground. One pulled up was amusing to an amazing degree, having small green tomatoes on one end and usual size potatoes on the other.

Young Blalock, a freshman at Langston High School, set out the garden at the usual spring planting time, in a spot the family had long used for a garden. The potatoes were up and blooming before a row of tomatoes was arranged sometime later. But now the tomatoes are large and well developed.

He just planted the potato "eyes" cut from seed spuds. And to the youth's amazement, he soon had the strange fruition.

Some surmise that pollen from the tomatoes became crossed with the already blooming potato blooms resulting in a cross-pollination scheme that produced the strange outcropping.

A check with old-time gardeners falls to recall any such procedure, although it is fairly well known about plant wizard Luther Burbank's famous experiments that produced many fine additions to plant life. One of these which enriched the gardening world was the Burbank potato, and he reportedly crossed the potato and tomato, resulting in which was called a "pomato."

The youthful gardener now aspires to greater things in agriculture, perhaps with plant experimentation.

Unlike the old vaudeville gag about "everybody works but father," the entire family of three stays busy.

The elder Grady is a porter at Guy Beeler's Tipton street eating estaablishment, his wife is a domestic for a prominent family here, and the youngest Blalock is a local drug store employe.

Conclusion of a sort:

In these days of streamlining things, with space for this and that at a premium the whole thing suggests a plan for conserving on gardening area.

PEPPERS REPLACE COTTON—Jury Clark of Americus, Ga., and his son Simpson, load their truck with pimento peppers grown on land once used for raising cotton. From ten acres they harvested twenty tons of peppers, selling them for $1,200.—USDA Photo.

New 'Sideline'

Pimento Pepper Crop Brings Farmer $1,200

Pittsburg Courier, Sat. 8-23-47

AMERICUS, Ga.—In the cotton and peanut section of Southwestern Georgia, farmers are now including pimento peppers in their

of poultry and four head of work-stock in addition to their two tractors. The rest of their farmland is rented to four tenants.

PROGRAM TODAY

Today, their farming program calls for sixty acres of peanuts, fifty acres of corn, forty-five acres of cotton, 100 acres in pasture and woodland, ten head of dairy cattle and his son, Simpkle, thirty head of hogs. 100 head

Simpson Clark, a former student of Morris Brown College, has played an important part in helping his father to develop and expand their farm. Sat. 8-23-47

harvested twenty tons of peppers, grossing $1,200.

Stone says that with the establishment of a pimento pepper canning plant in Sumter County hundreds of white and colored farmers have begun raising peppers under contract with the plant.

DOWNS 511 ACRES

Typical of the farmers who have taken the lead in growing peppers is Jury Clark, 68-year-old cotton and peanut farmer of Americus, Ga. The Clarks, who now average nearly $15,000 annually from their farming operations, own 511 acres. Mr. Clark inherited 200 acres from his parents who bought it in 1865. In recent years the Clarks have added 311 acres to their holdings.

While some diffident farmers in his community were telling themselves that they had better stick to cotton and peanuts and let the peppers alone because they had neither the time nor the know-how to grow them, Mr. Clark and

tion, of course, to their regular cotton, peanut and corn crops. Fertilizing and cultivating the crop in accordance with recommendations of their county agent, the Clarks

planted ten acres of them in addi-

Convinced that the peppers were a good sideline crop, the Clarks

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Outlook for Farmers Dark, Says Dr. Raper

Predicts That By 1951 600,000 Will Have Fled Farms

By JAMES L. HICKS
NNPA STAFF WRITER

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Although the number of colored farm owners in the south increased more than 7 per cent between 1940 and 1945, and the number of colored sharecroppers and tenant farmers decreased more than 3 per cent during the same period, the outlook for colored farmers in none too bright, Dr. Arthur F. Raper social science analyst of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics said last Wednesday.

Dr. Raper, author of "Preface to Peasantry" and "Tenants of the Almighty," and regarded as an authority on tenant and sharecrop farming, agreed with an opinion held by the Agriculture Department that in the current machine age each tractor bought by a farmer pushes another family off a farm, and that by the end of 1950 600,000 sharecropper and tenant families will have been pushed off their farms by mechanization of the farming industry. Dr. Raper holds that this is a conservative estimate.

MECHANIZATION SPEARHEADS

Tractors are spearheading the drive for wide-scale mechnization in the South. Closely behind the tractor are the mechanical cotton chopper and the cotton picker. Two years ago on a Mississippi Delta farm, 42 acres of cotton were planted, cultivated, weeded, and picked by mechanized equipment as an experiment. Sixty-two bales of cotton were havested from the 42 acres. Savings in picking along amounted to $24.82 a bale, or $1,538.84 for the 62 bales.

Farmers who used mechanical cotton choppers this year say that they were able to chop their cotton at the rate of about one dollar an acre as compared with $4.50 an acre by hand labor. While only a few farmers now have mechanical cotton pickers, scores of white and colored farmers are using two-row tractor-down cotton choppers and various other mechanical devices to weed their cotton.

Questioned as to what might happen to such displaced families, Dr. Raper said many of them would drop to the lower status of day laborers while others would leave farm life completely! The Agriculture Department estimates that there are now approximately 357,000 tractors in the south and that by 1950 there will be more than a million.

MANY FORCED OFF

Figures released by the Census Bureau tend to indicate that despite the increase in farm ownership by colored farmers thousands of them have already been forced off their farms in the past five years.

In 1940 there were approximately 173,728 colored farm owners in the south. In 1945 this figure was 186,000, a gain of 12,272. This 7 per cent gain, however, is not consistent with the 23 per cent of the total number of farmers in the south which colored farmers represent.

It should also be pointed out that 4,210 of the gain in colored farm owners represents loans to colored people buying their farms through Federal Home Administration mortgages.

The drop in the number of tenant farmers and sharecroppers since 1940 was 19,638—from 506,638 in 1940 to 487,000 in 1945. Assuming that the 12,272 gains made in farm ownerships by colored people came from the ranks of the sharecroppers and tenant farmers —a very unlikely assumption — there still remains a loss of more than 7,000 colored tenants and sharecroppers.

35,000 MISSING

On the basis of the Agriculture Department's estimate that the average colored farmer has a family of five, this means that more than 35,000 colored tenants and sharecroppers have either fallen to the status of day laborers or migrated from the rural south.

Agricultural officials explained that a tenant farmer differs from a sharecropper in that the tenant farmer usually has some livestock and a few farming tools with which to work, while a sharecropper merely lives on a farm and works with the tools and livestock provided by the owner.

While Dr. Raper holds to the theory that mechanization is responsible for pushing the colored man off the farm, another school of thought contends that the coming of the machine to the farm is a direct result of the scarcity of farm labor brought on by the migration of the colored man from the rural areas.

Both schools are in common agreement, however, that the machine is on the farm to stay, that it definitely is increasing the size of farms throughout the south and that it is steadily decreasing the number of workers required to efficently operate the farms.

Dr. Raper would not hazard a prediction as to when he felt the upheavel in the south might end.

Alabama Press

SIZE OF FARMS

The editor of The Birmingham Age-Herald has concluded that improved farm machinery is responsible for the fact that farms are "getting larger and fewer." No doubt but what tractors and improved implements have made it possible for one man to till more acres, and that would tend to increase the size of farms because most farmers put in all the land they think they can cultivate.

But tractors are not entirely to blame for fewer farms. There are fewer folks wanting to farm, and as long as jobs are plentiful and wages good, this condition will continue. And there's not much anybody can do about that.

Good prices for farm products have enabled many farmers to buy additional acreage, thus adding to the size of their farms. The tractor will make the extra land a safer investment than it was at the close of the other war when we went "hog wild" for larger farms.

Then, too, farming is undergoing a change. In the Black Belt what used to be a cotton plantation with half a hundred Negro tenants, each being credited by the U. S. Census Bureau as operating a farm, now is one big cow pasture, and the colored folks have gone to Akron or Detroit. But up here in DeKalb County the change is not to big farming units. The big change here is to larger acre yields, and that nearly always means fewer cultivated acres. Our farmers are not trying to spread out over all creation. But they take pride in making each acre do its duty. We know farms on Sand Mountain that 40 years ago made less than a half bale of cotton to the acre, and corn didn't much more than tassel. It took a big acreage to make a sort of living for one family. Now some of these farms are producing a bale and a half to two bales per acre of cotton and 10 to 12 barrels of corn. Four, five, six, even more, families are getting a good living off the same amount of land that barely supported one family years ago.

Fewer family-size farms are, no doubt, a reality in some sections and in the offing in other parts of the country, and partly due to improved machinery, but in DeKalb County our farmers seem more interested in using machinery to become better farmers instead of bigger ones.—Collinsville New Era.

Negro Landowners In Chatham Exceed Tenants, U. S. Says

Savannah, Ga. News
Tues, 5-27-47

Chatham county is one of the nineteen counties in Georgia with more negro landowners than tenants, according to the Field Service Branch of the Production and Marketing Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The other counties are: Appling, Brantley, Bryan, Camden, Charlton, Clinch, Glynn, Habersham, Haralson, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Rabun, Telfair, Walker, Ware, White and Whitfield.

Negroes are operating more than one-third of the farms in the following eighteen counties: Brooks, Bulloch, Burke, Calhoun, Coweta, Early, Hancock, Jefferson, Mitchell, Laurens, Macon, Merriweather, Randolph, Screven, Terrell, Thomas, Washington and Worth, the field office stated.

The number of negro farm operators in the state jumped from 59,132 to 70,411 and the number of farms operated by negroes jumped by more than 10,000 during the period between April 1, 1940 and January 1, 1945, the field office stated. Tues. 5-27-47

According to the field service branch of the P. M. A., negroes in Georgia own 1,024,369 acres with land and buildings valued at $23,971,643. The office states this is the largest holding of farm lands and the greatest value held by negro farmers in Georgia than at any period in history.

Tenant farming in Texas hardhit by Negro migration and urbanization

Los Angeles Tribune-Los Angeles, Calif.
Sat 8-23-47

WASHINGTON — Tenant farming by Negroes in the state of Texas declined 13 percent between 1940 and 1945, the U. S. Dept. of Commerce said today in its report on Texas farming, one of a series of state-by-state analyses of the U. S. agricultural picture.

During the 1940-45 period, there was a gain of 1,909 in the number of Negro owner-operated farms and a gain of 20 in the number of farms operated by Negro managers, the report stated; but the two gains combined did not the balance the decrease of 8,732 tenant farmers. The decrease is accounted for by increased urbanization of Texas Negroes and by the wartime migration to the West and North.

Negroes operate some 45,950 farms in Texas, the report said; of which 22,024 are Negro-owned; 48 Negro managed; and 23,-978 tenanted by Negroes. In 1940, Negroes operated 52,753 Texas farms. Sat 8-23-47

Negroes operate some 2,709,558 acres of Texas land; harvest some 1,012,946 acres of cropland. Value of land and buildings farmed by Negroes is $86,809,693 with that Negroes own valued at $40,619,153. Negroes are farming in 172 of Texas' 254 counties, however 12 counties are most favored by them.

Virginia Report On Homes Given To Washington

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va.

Mississippi Report Reveals Conditions Of Sharecroppers

Sat. 9-13-47

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—One-third of the colored rural families and one-sixth of the white rural families of Virginia live in houses with three rooms or less and two-fifths of the colored homes and one-third of the white homes are in need of major repair, the agricultural experiment station at Blacksburg, Va., reported to the Agriculture Department recently.

Another experiment station at Starkville, Miss., reported in a study of land tenure that white sharecroppers are younger than colored sharecroppers and progress out of the sharecropper class at an earlier age.

They also move more often than the colored sharecroppers, the report said. Sat. 9-13-47

A good many colored sharecroppers in Mississippi have become land owners but for the most part they have bought small farms on poor land, the report added.

The average income for white or colored owners of small farms is lower than for white or colored sharecroppers, respectively on farms of like size, the Agriculture Department was told.

Sharecroppers, both white and colored, the report said, have better land and equipment than owners of small farms.

The Mississippi station concluded that all programs designed to improve tenure conditions in the Mississippi area should be carefully examined to make sure that change from sharecroppers to owners does not result in a reduction rather than an increase in income.

Farmers Lag In Medical Expenditures

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sat. 11-8-47

A study of changes in medical expenditures during the war reveals that Negro farm families spent only about half as much for medical care in 1945 as did white farm families in the South.

A recent preliminary release of the study, which was made by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, shows that colored farm families had an expenditure of only $40—mainly for physicians and medical supplies—in 1945, as compared with an expenditure of $81 per white farm family in the South. Satell

Both white and colored farm families lagged behind farm families of the North, who spent $101 for medical care in 1945.

"HEAH SOME BERRIES!"

Montgomery, Ala Advertiser

She's usually big, shiny-ebon and attired in a gingham dress. Her neck usually takes on a pelican b e n d because of the heavy basket balanced on her head. Her arms are rippling sinews f r o m carrying two other baskets in her hands. Thurs. 7-24-47

You're especially mindful of her chant in the Summer because the windows are open. Her voice is vibrant and the c h a n t expectant. 1a

"Heah some herries! . . . Nice snapbeans—butterbeans, turnip greens, tomatoes . . . okra. . . ."

She takes 14 s t r i d e s more and if the weather in the morning is not too hot, she renders again:

"Want some snapbeans? . . . butterbeans, turnip greens, tomatoes . . . okra—nice turnip salad. . . ."

This gazette has t a k e n no part in the quarrels between its clients as to whether dogs should be allowed to howl at night, or whether horns should blow. In fact, despite our frenzied good wishes, we have never joined hands with The Journal in its onslaught upon motor s c o o t e r s and their noise.

But when a reader writes in to object to the noise made by Negro women hucksters as they cry to you about their vegetables—then we break our radio silence, as it were, and take our stand. 1a

There is an earthy appeal in the rounds of these vendors, the m o i s t freshness of their garden offerings and their expectant chant. Thurs, 7-24-47

That's a mark of Summer in a small town of the Deep South that would be missed like Cherokee roses on the fence rows. It is a subtle and p l e a s a n t subconscious reminder that green fields are not far beyond the gritty asphalt pavement.

We want some nice snapbeans—okra, tomatoes . . . turnip salad. . . .

Sharecropper Grosses $2,800 on Sideline Crops

1a Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

WASHINGTON — In the cotton area of Western Tennessee, colored farmers are rapidly diversifying as a means of adjusting their cropping system to on-coming mechanization and the changing pattern of farming in the South, reports W. H. Williamson, assistant State agent of Extension Service. Sat. 6-7-47

Mr. Williamson says that the shifts are to truck crops, poultry, and livestock. He points out that even tenants and sharecroppers have begun growing strawberries, cabbage, and tomatoes as sideline crops.

As an example of the increased income which even small farmers are deriving from these sideline crops, Assistant State Agent Williamson points to John Jeffries, a sharecropper farming forty acres near Jackson, Tenn. Last year he added $1,900 to his gross cotton income by growing strawberries, cabbage, tomatoes, and a little sorghum.

Farmer Jeffries says that up until 1939, he, his wife, and two boys had barely broken even, depending on cotton to carry the whole farm load. With his boys getting larger and their clothes costing more, besides the extra money that it took for them to attend high school in town, Sharecropper Jeffries got to thinking how he could increase his income.

Then one day he received an announcement in the mail that the county agent was going to hold a result demonstration in strawberry growing in his community. Jeffries had heard of Extension demonstrations all along, but had never attended one. Thought they were like the farm meetings he went to several years back where everybody got up and bragged about the yields he was getting and the money he was making, but no one took the time to explain how it was done. Maybe a demonstration meeting would be different—anyway, he thought he would attend. Sat. 6-7-47

At the demonstration, which was held in a strawberry patch, County Extension Agent A. M. Dobbins explained how the berries were grown, the amount of fertilizer used, the yield obtained, and the quantity already sold which had brought nearly $700.

Jeffries was sold on strawberries as a sideline crop, and on demonstrations as a good way to learn what was going on. Last year he marketed $1,200 worth of strawberries, $500 worth of tomatoes, $160 worth of syrup, besides seven bales of cotton, nine tons of cabbage, and $87 worth of chickens, eggs, and potatoes. Added up, he had grossed about $2,800.

Mrs. Jeffries keeps books, handles the garden and chickens, and, of course, she does the canning. Last year, she canned 300 quarts of food.

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier Sat. 6-7-47

1a

Sideline Crop— Farmer John Jeffries, right, is a sharecropper in western Tennessee. He knows his business, too. He knows it so well that last year he grossed $2,800 by growing sideline crops with his cotton. Here, in his tomato patch, he talks with County Agent A. M. Dobbins, as Mrs. Jeffries helps pluck the ripe fruit. Jeffries' sharecrop on forty acres near Jackson, Tenn.—USDA Photo.

SHARECROPPER INCREASES INCOME BY $1,400 THROUGH CURB MARKET SALES

Atlanta Ga. Daily World

Sat. 7-12-47

WASHINGTON— Charles Ruffin a colored sharecropper of Wilson County, N C., added $1,400 to his cotton and tobacco income last year by selling home-grown products at the Wilson curb market.

"My wife and I were worried about the education of our children a few years back, said Mr Ruffin. when interviewed recently. "That was before our county agent helped us start this curb market; now we are not worried at all," he added.

And why should they be. Four of their children already are going to college-- three daughters at North Carolina College in Durham and a son at A .and T. College, Greensboro, N C. And the way is paved through curb market sales for the other five children to enter college when they finish high school.

Mr. and Mrs. Ruffin began farming as sharecroppers in 1922. Year after year until 1941 they grew only cotton and tobacco for market and could never seem to get ahead.

$10,657 SALE

N will preach on the subect, "Go Wash

On the opening day of the market Mrs. Henriettta Ruffin and eight their childre already are going to worth of products. Last year, the sellers at the market sold $10,657.89 worth of vegetables, fruits, cured meats, eggs, poultry, butter, flowers, and miscellaneous products including home-made soap. Of this total $1400 went to the Ruffins to help educate their children and to help swell their modest savings for a farm of their own. In a single day they have sold as much as $94 worth of products at the curb market.

"When land prices come down some", said Mr. Ruffin, "we plan to buy. Just got to have a farm for our son who is now studying agriculture at college. He spent three years in Service. We'd like to buy in our community where all our friends are" Sat. 7-12-47

County Agent Foster says that the Ruffins are among the most energetic and enterprising farmers who sell at the market. "Although they live 16 miles from Wilson, farther than most of the sellers, they are usually first to arrive every market day-- Wednesday and Saturday," says Mr Foster.

PROBE ASKED FOR MISS SHARECROPPER

Fri. 10-7-49

JACKSON, Miss.—(S N S)—The family of the planta from their home apparently because they had picked more cotton than was said to have pick- started when two other Negro share tion are Lindsey and Fred Meadows. croppers on their plantation accused ted 20 bales of cotton. Body said he tried to get in touch cre allotment, seven of with the Sheriff the day after the een ginned. shooting but couldn't find him. to Body, the trouble When endeavoring to get settlemack two other Negro share on the seven bales already ginned. their plantation accused he said he was told no settlement croppers on their house trying to pick their could be made until the entire crop of everybody else and had been picked. The plantation own

Body, his wife and their six-year fe and their six-year trying to entice all the pickers. The old son, was forced to flee when following Sunday night the gunmen unknown gunmen riddled their reportedly opened fire on their house dwelling with bullets last October forcing them to leave in the darkness.

The family was ed an estimated 2 on their 13 acre a which had been

According to B

reportedly asking for a Federal in-to get settlement on seven bales investigation in the forcing-out of a already ginned. Data share-cropper and his family. The family, comprising Ernest cotton ahead of e

ers would do nothing about getting the Sheriff, Body asserted.

Meanwhile the family is residing in Memphis, Tenn. where they were advised that they would be able to get some assistance from the Southern Tenant Farmers union.

Catholic Mission Aids Sharecroppers

LAFAYETTE, La. (ANP) — The Missionary Servants of the Holy Trinity is conducting a self-help project for sharecroppers in this community. The project was described by the Rev. Andrew Lawrence at the National Catholic Rural Life conference here last week.

The Rev. Mr. Lawrence and his associates are grooming 100 children of sharecrooper families for life on their own farms. Most of the children are colored and 90% of them are non-Catholics.

100-Acre Farm the Goal

Practical farming courses for boys and girls are begun in the fifth grade. By the time the student is graduated from high school, he has earned enough from farm work to make the down payment on 10 acres, to be acquired outright within three years.

There is no compulsory training in Catholicism, but all students are required to attend some church every Sunday. After they have acquired the 10 acres, the mission helps them start buying a permanent home on a 100-acre farm.

Tenants

REPORT FROM THE COUNTRY

A Real Chapter in Improvement

1a Atlanta Ga. July 16, 1947

By RALPH McGILL

BUTTS COUNTY—A schoolteacher for 24 years who doesn't mind getting out and chopping cotton or doing what the farm demands in the way of work, explains why Jesse Byars, one of the Negro farmers succeeding under the Tenant Purchase Plan, has been able to do so well.

The schoolteacher is his wife, Ida Byars, who for 24 years has been teaching school as hard as Jesse has been farming. She has been at one school at Flovilla for that time, and a daughter, Ora, also has become a teacher.

Having been recommended by the Butts County committee of farmers, Jesse Byars got his farm in 1939, and also a production loan. When we got there, it was just dinner time. Jesse Byars had just finished unhitching his mule, and was stamping the dust out of his shoes on his front porch.

Like all others, he had a job cut out for him. The farm had been abused, and had its quota of gullies. But Jesse Byars set his hand to the plow, figuratively and literally. He worked till he was ready to drop, and he did exactly what they said to do. He figured it was his big chance to get on his feet as a farmer, and he did exactly what the soil conservation man, the County Agent and the Tenant Purchase Supervisor said. Sometimes it was new and strange, and didn't seem right; but he did it.

The result: He has a farm which is way above average. He had a mighty tussle with grass, but he beat it; and his rows are clean, and his crops look good.

Last year he won the county prize for improved pastures and small grain offered by the Soil Conservation Committee.

His wife was busy with some new baby chicks when we arrived, and had them in a special pen on the back porch with old roofing under them. She has good luck with chickens. There also was canning going on.

The farm of which Jesse Byars is so deservedly proud contains 96 acres. He has 30 acres in pasture, of which 15 acres are improved pasture. Lespedeza, sericea, Kobe and Dallis grass are his chief grasses.

He has 12 acres in cotton, 15 acres in corn. Pepper is a good crop with him. Some people have luck with it, and some don't. Joe Kelly, another Negro farmer and neighbor, never had any luck with it and quit, for instance. He also has two acres of butter beans. There were six acres of wheat for flour, feed and sale. Sorghum cane for molasses and feed, a half acre of peanuts and an acre of kudzu make up his farming.

When he bought his farm, he had been working all his life as a renter. But he had earned the respect and approval of the people in the county, who knew him for a hard worker who would do what he promised. He has proved out again, as they say, by making good on his own.

He had very little to show after years of renting. Now he is ahead on his payments; and if he has good luck with weather, will pay out in another year or so. His farm is valued at about $3,500.

In addition to the greatly improved and more valuable farm, he has three milk cows, eight calves and heifers, and eight hogs. There are 24 hens, 36 fryers and 50 baby chicks on his place. The one turkey hen represented some bad luck with a small flock of turkeys. The others died.

He brags on his mule, insisting it is the smartest and best in the county. It takes a real interest in plowing, Jesse Byars claims, and will look back to see if he is guiding the plow as well as he, the mule, is pulling it.

There was a lot of canned food in the house and feed in the barn. Butts County is a better county because of Jesse Byars and others like him, who are carrying their part of the load. It is no wonder the people of the County think well of the Tenant Purchase Plan.

It is no wonder the merchants and bankers appreciate the changeover of farmers from a poor credit risk to a good one.

We saw Walter Banks, another neighbor farmer and Negro who made good. On an 80-acre farm, he had 65 acres in cultivation. He followed the formula of cotton, oats, corn, pasture, butter beans, peppers and garden.

He has a remarkable record in producing feed. In 21 years he has bought just 12 bushels of feed, and he allows he has sold many more bushels than that, and lent his neighbors some when they were in a tight.

He has just one boy to help. He and his wife do a lot of good, hard work, and glory in doing it because they are doing it for their own farm. They have a lot of pride in their County and in their State.

Walter Banks now is about paid out as the owner of the farm on which he worked for many years as a "halves farmer." He bought in 1936.

His farm has the usual supply of pigs, a cow, a yearling, chickens and a fine garden.

A delay made it impossible for us to visit some of the other Butts County Negroes who have made good, and are well regarded in the County and communities in which they live.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of one story is that of Ettress Miller. The Tenant Purchase Committee of Butts County farmers examined the several farms proposed, and agreed on one which was purchased. It turned out to be the farm on which Ettress Miller's father had been born a slave. His father had lived on the farm as a boy when it was owned in "slavery times" by Maj. Frank Miller.

During the war, the Yankee soldiers came through and took the young Anderson Miller slave boy several miles away to the old Dobbs farm. When they asked him if he wanted to go back, he said he did. They let him go; and he returned to Maj. Miller's farm and worked for him until his former owner died. After the deaths of Maj. and Mrs. Miller, he moved about, returning to Butts County in 1909 when he died. The present owner, then a young man, came with his father in 1909, and worked on the farm as a tenant for 3(years.

The Millers are a hard-workin family, and proud of their farm They, too, approved farming prac tices, and are ahead of their pay ments. A son lives with them and farming near by. Other chil dren help with the work. There are 12 children, eight of whom are still at home.

Ettress and his wife plan t leave a will which will prevent the farm being sold. They want it always to remain in the family, and for some of the family to farm it.

Luther Jester is another who has done well. He has 100 acres, and is making his fourth crop. He should pay for his farm this year or next. He sold his car to apply the money on the farm when used cars began to bring good prices. Not many would do that.

All these Negroes have had this chance in Georgia, and have made good. There are many others like them in other Counties. Georgia has many fine Negro farmers who are excellent citizens, paying their own way and holding the respect of the white people in the Counties where they live. Georgia could use more of them, and will have more if the Tenant Purchase Plan is not restricted by lack of appropriation.

These people follow proved practices, and have demonstrated their worth. They have a great pride in being farm owners. The desire to get out of debt and sta out of debt would have pleased ol Ben Franklin himself.

I think it worth repeating th when Luther Jester, who is r garded as one of the very be farmers in the County, found l could get a good price for his o car, he sold it and put the mon on his farm payments. He has h a hard time of it because his wi has been sick. He also has a sma child. But his wife is some bette and he has a lot of hope and co fidence.

Their story is a heartening on one of the real chapters of Geo gia's improving, changing farr story. They are a very real pa of it.

Congress Sub-Group Told Tenant-Bought Farms Dilapidated

Birmingham, Ala. Dem. 10-30-47

At Least 79 Per Cent Had Need Of New Houses, FHA Director In State Asserts

10-30-47

The dilapidated condition of farm homes acquired by tenants under the tenant purchase program in Alabama during the last eight years was related to a subcommittee of the joint congressoinal committee on housing today. 1a

At a hearing in the Federal Court room here, Julian Brown, Montgomery, state director, Farmers Home Administration, said loans were made to more than 4,000 farm families during the first eight years of the program. The loans were used for buying farms and providing needed improvements.

Of the farms acquired, 79 per cent required new houses and only 21 per cent of the existing houses were such as to justify repairs, Mr. Brown said. 2 Hou.

"Of the farms acquired before the war, housing was so inadequate that new houses ha dto be built on 82 per cent of the farms," he said.

* * *

"DURING AND IMMEDIATELY subsequent to the war, scarcity of materials and increased prices for materials and labor made it necesar yto repair 56 per cent of the houses on acquired farms.

"The new houses constructed from 1939 to 1941 cost from $1,200 to $1,400. The cost of the same house today varies from $2,500 to $3,000. Bathrooms have not been provided in the new houses built. This would require an addition of $600 under present costs. 2 Hou.

"Tenant families living in two or three-room, unpainted, dilapidated houses cannot be expected to enjoy good health or contribute much to their communities or their country.

"There are 223,000 farm families in Alabama, with about half of them operating as tenants, day laborers or sharecroppers. This must be considered in planning any long-range program for farm families."

L. F. JEFFERS, Birmingham builder, was ready to go before the sub-committee today with an appeal for continuation of the government's FHA program for construction of low-cost housing.

"I've done it here in Birmingham and it can be done by others," Mr. Jeffers declared.

Mr. Jeffers was armed with data on low-rent projects in the Birmingham area.

He has just completed 32 apartments in Acipco for Negroes, renting at $35 a month.

He now has under construction at 10th Avenue and 50th Street North, the Gibson Court Apartments, which will furnish living quarters for 50 white families at an average monthly rental of $40.

In The Nation's Capital

Extension Service System

By LOUIS LAUTIER
For NNPA News Service

THE Smith-Lever Act of 1914 provides for what is called the Cooperative Extension Service. Extension work in agriculture and home economics is carried on by the Agriculture Department and the land-grant colleges. It consists of giving instruction and practical demonstration to persons not attending or residing in a land-grant college.

An agreement between the Secretary of Agriculture and the president of the land-grant college provides that there shall be at the state level an extension service which shall have an extension director. The selection of this director is initiated by the college and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture.

The organization of the extension service includes a group of specialists who are on the college campus and who are usually housed with the particular line of work they represent. For example, the animal-husbandry specialist would be in the animal-husbandry department.

Programs are worked out at the state level and submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture for approval. For example, a state will have a project dealing with dairying, which is an outline of what is considered major dairy problems — how the problems are to be attacked, what is to be taught and demonstrated, who are going to do it, the budget and other various matters.

ONE OBJECTIVE of the program is the improvement of economic, social and spiritual well-being. Another is the improvement of farm income through the application of science and farm mechanization. A third is the improvement of the people through better nutrition and more adequate health facilities and services.

From the state level the extension service drops to the county level. The county extension office in 2,980 counties is the unit by which the objectives of the Cooperative Extension Service are attained as it works with rural people.

Allotments to southern states maintaining separate land-grant colleges for white and colored students, of federal funds for cooperative agricultural extension work in the fiscal year 1947, were as follows:

Alabama, $1,038,827.50; Arkansas, $864,441.47; Delaware, $89,307.74; Florida, $322,593.82; Georgia, $1,084,095.27; Kentucky, $986,860.76; Louisiana, $687,482.46; Maryland, $262,065.69; Mississippi, $1,066,086.43; Missouri, $892,624.91; North Carolina, $1,279,980.64; Oklahoma, $791,702.59; South Carolina, $733,995.61. Tennessee, $987,147.56; Texas, $1,742,278.82; Virginia, $798,607.34; West Virginia, $488,765.39.

AS OF DEC. 31, 1946, there were 716 state directors and supervisors, 1,827 specialists, and 1,680 clerks, or a total of 4,223 works; 2,935 county agents, 1,791 assistant county agents, 2,215 home demonstration agents, 862 assistant home demonstration agents, 400 4-H Club agents, 78 assistant 4-H Club agents, and 4,000 clerks, or a total of 12,281 county workers.

Although the Federal Extension Service is in administrative control of state and county services through its power of approval and certification for payment of federal funds, there are only approximately 817 colored county agents, the employment of nearly 300 of whom was made possible by war emergency funds available for that purpose by President Roosevelt.

Moreover, in each of the southern states, excepting Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri salary differentials make the highest salary paid to colored county agents approximate the lowest salary paid white assistant county agents. Average annual salaries in southern states in Dec., 1945, were as follows:

Alabama—County agents, average, $4,025; high $5,250; low, $3,000; assistant county agents, average, $2,802; high, $3,570; low, $2,205; colored county agents, average, $1,875; high, $2,310; low, $1,580.

Arkansas—County agents, average, $3,499; high $5,000; low, $3,000; assistant count yagents, average $2,406; high, $3,410; low, $2.250; colored county agents, $1,934; high, $2,250; low, $1,800.

Delaware—County agents, average, $3,550; high, $3,600; low, $3,500; assistant county agents, average, $3,300; high, $3,300; low, $3,300.

Florida—County agents, average, $3,357; high, $6,720; low, $2,200; assistant county agents, average, $2,663; high $3,180; low, $2,200; assistant county low, $1,800; colored county agents, average, $1,500; high, $1,600; low, $1,400.

Georgia—County agents, average, $3,110; high, $4,920; low, $2,400; colored county agents, average, $2,146; high, $2,700; low, $1,800.

Kentucky—County agents, average, $3,180; high, $4,500; low, $2,240; assistant county agents, average, $2,337; high, 3,550; low, $2,000.

Louisiana — County agents, average, $4,019; high, $5,900; low, $3,400; assistant county agents, average, $2,821; high, $3,160; low, $2,600; colored county agents, average, $2,287; high, $2,660; low, $2,100.

Mississippi — County agents, average, $3,739; high, $5,120; low, $2,640; assistant county agents, average, $3,060; high, $3,750; low, $3,000; colored county agents, average, $2,142; high $3,120; low, $1,620.

North Carolina — County agents, average, $3,647; high, $4,800; low, $3,060; assistant county agents, average, $2,659; high, $3,792; low, $2,160; colored county agents, average, $2,321; high, $2,880; low, $1,740.

Oklahoma — County agents, average, $3,715; high, $4,521; low, $3,021; assistant county agents, average, $2,872; high, $3,300; low, $2,700; colored county agents, average, $2,386; high, $2,682; low, $2,000.

South Carolina — County agents, average, $3,484; high, $4,500; low, $3,060; assistant county agents, average, $2,774; high, $3,480; low, $2,640; colored county agents, average, $2,224; high, $2,760; low, $1,980.

Tennessee — County agents, average, $3,644; high, $4,620; low, $3,120; assistant county agents, average, $3,318; high, $3,785; low, $3,000; colored county agents, average, $2,542; high, $2,640; low, $2,100.

Texas — County agents, average $3,302; high, $4,750; low assistant county agents average, $2,526; high, $3,700; low $1,898; colored county agents average, $2,066; high, $2,884; low, $2,100.

Virginia — County agents, average, $3,538; high, $4,507; low, $2,325; assistant county agents, average, $2,525; high, $2,894; low, $2,088; colored county agents, average, $2,335; high, $2,844; low, $1,968.

West Virginia—County agents, average, $3,200; high, $3,600; low, $2,500; assistant county agents, average, $2,600; high, $2,900; low, $2,400; colored county agents, average, $2,250; high, $2,400; low, $2,100.

4-27-47 Wed. Daily World Atlanta Ga.

AGRICULTURAL ADVISER RETURNS FROM LIBERIA — Charles E. Trout, of Alabama Extension Service, who returned recently from Liberia after serving there for over two years as agricultural adviser to the Liberian Government, is greeted by M. L. Wilson, director of Extension Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Trout, who stands at left, has been appointed editor of the Negro Farmer, an Alabama Extension Service publication.

A Development of Much Importance to South

Announcement by the United States Department of Agriculture that funds have been made available by Federal and State agencies to employ 278 more Negro Agricultural Extension Service workers in the South is news of great economic and social importance to this section.

The announcement reveals that $2,218,209 will be spent this year as compared with $1,036,668 in 1942, which represents an increase of 114 per cent over the five-year period. The increase enables the Extension Service to employ 817 demonstration workers instead of the 539 engaged in aiding the colored farm people five years ago. Florida Times

Results of the efforts of these specialists should go a long way toward making the colored farmers more independent, and help materially in the general program aimed at strengthening the economic position of the colored people generally. Economic strength and increased self-reliance that will enable them to lean less on the white man are among their most urgent needs. Mon 2-10-47

Increased allotments of funds making the employment of more Negro County and Home Demonstration agents indicates an awareness of the need of these workers that should encourage both white and colored people of the South. This fact will be quickly recognized by all persons familiar with the great benefits that have come to Southern farmers through the Agricultural Extension Service. Specialists working through this service advise farmers in methods of improving crops, conserving soils and forests, of growing better livestock, and aid the farmers' wives in improving their homes and home surroundings.

Meanwhile, the boys and girls on the farms are organized into 4-H clubs and Future Farmers, and instructed in the best methods of raising vegetables and other crops, in improving livestock and poultry, and in making their homes more attractive and more comfortable. The girls are taught how to make their own clothing and perhaps most important of all how to cook and make homes.

It may be seen, therefore, that the program of the Agricultural Extension Service is one of fundamental importance, and that benefits to the South will increase in proportion to the spread of that program. Yet, strange though it may appear, there are many counties having neither County agents nor Home Demonstration agents for either white or colored.

Macon County Bids To Build Better Farms

Montgomery Advertiser Mon 4-21-47 Montgomery, Ala.

By MRS. HAL FISHER

TUSKEGEE, ALA., April 20.—Only 15 per cent of the farmers of Macon county have sufficient incomes to afford farm and home facilities necessary for comfortable living while only 13 per cent are asking a satisfactory income it is declared in one section of an analysis of the 1945 agricultural census committee of farmers working with the Extension Service.

To correct this situation by spreading greater farm income over a larger percentage of the farmers in the county, the committee has prepared a 15-point program of balanced farming for 1947. If followed, the committee states, approximately 87 per cent of the farmers in this county would have a satisfactory income.

Calling on farmers, business men and professional men to cooperate toward boosting farm income, the report sets out that everyone in the county would benefit directly or indirectly from the program. Mon 4-21-47

Point one of the program begins logically, with the soil and with proper use of the land. This section recommends complete water disposal systems on 4,000 acres in the county, wider use of cover crops and planting of crops only on land suited to them.

For cotton the program recommends planting only on suitable land, rotation with Winter cover crops, use of tested, delinted and treated seed, early planting use of 600 or more pounds of fertilizer per acre, insect pest control and improved picking, handling and ginning.

The average yield of corn per acre can be increased to 25 bushels per acre by the proper land preparation and planting practices it is contended. The program contemplates the planting practices of 15,000 acres of oats and 3,000 acres of grain sorghum during 1947.

FIRST NEGRO FARM HOME DEDICATED

Wilmington, N. C. Morning Star June 7, 1947

Agricultural Building Thought To Be First Of Its Kind

PITTSBORO, June 6—(AP)— An agricultural building for the exclusive use of Negroes was dedicated here today.

It is thought to be the first building of its kind to be erected in any county in the nation from solicited funds, Dr. I. O. Schaub, director of North Carolina extension service, said today.

"This building is only a facility to help you advance and develop objectives for a higher standard of living," Schaub said in a dedication address. "This is not a place to stop. You have proven that you can advance, now is the time to continue."

The edifice was erected at a cost of approximately $4,900, and a debt of $954 remains outstanding. Practically all funds for its erection came from Negroes, Schaub said.

R. G. Bryant served as chairman of a building committee which was formed in August of last year.

The building is dedicated to the memory of Neil Alexander Bailey, the first Negro to be employed as a county agent in North Carolina.

It will provide office space for Chatham county Negro extension workers — Joseph A. Turner, county agent, and Lovie M. Smith, home demonstration agent.

Other speakers today included John W. Goodman, assistant director of North Carolina extension service; Frank Jeter, agricultural editor at State College; Wade Barber, state senator; J. B. Snipes, county agent; Flossie Whitley, home demonstration agent; E. E. Walden, chairman of the board of county commissioners; J. S. Waters, county superintendent of schools; Wade H. Paschal, president of the Farm Bureau; W. T. Johnson, professor at A. & T. college; C. C. Spaulding, president of North Carolina Mutual Insurance company; R. —. Jones, Negro state agent; J. W. Jefferies, assistant Negro state agent; and Roxie Small, secretary of the Chatham county Negro farm and home foundation.

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

ALBANY'S FIRST — Miss Mattie Jackson Fisher who holds the distinction of being the first Home Demonstration Agent ever appointed to serve the colored people of Dougherty County. Miss Fisher is filling a long felt need by opening her office here on July 1, 1947. She comes to the county with a rich background of training and experience. A native of Alabama, Miss Fisher is a graduate of Spelman College where she majored in Home Economics and was active in campus life. She was a member of the Glee Club, College Chior and was humor editor of the Spelman Campus Mirror.

Sat. 7-5-47

Miss Fisher's work is primarily an education for women and girls of the County with special emphasis on canning and preserving surplus fruits and vegetables, health and sanitation and general improvement of the home and its surroundings. There are more than 700 rural families in this County with more than 150 girls in the 4-H Club work.

July 17, 1947

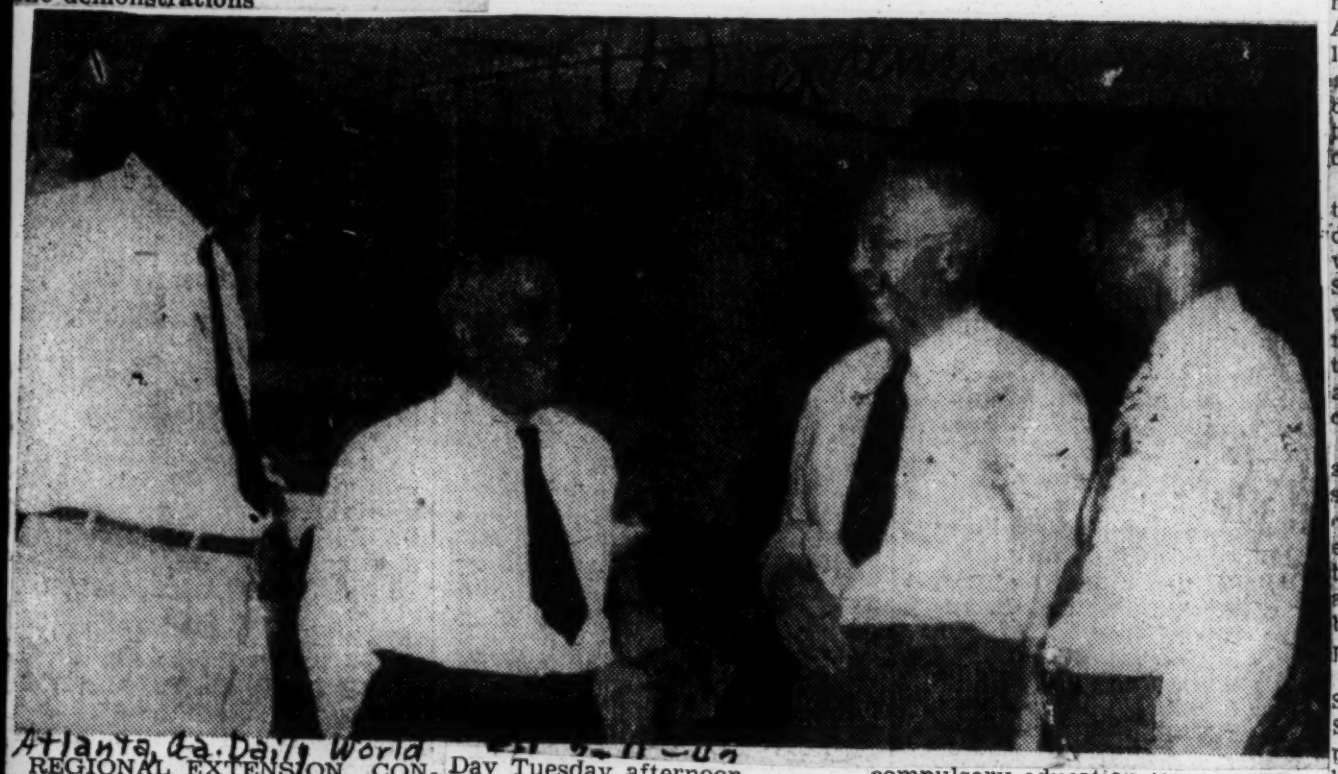
Negro Group On Farm Tour

A group of negro farmers of Brooks county, under the supervision of William T. Harris, negro County Agent, conducted their first farm tour of the county since the war. The tour was a success in that they were able to see several interesting demonstrations which have been successfully conducted in the county.

The points of interest on the tour were as follows: Page Gray, summer grazing and poultry; A. J. Davis, cotton, corn and poultry; Rufus Marson, corn; Monroe Smith, cotton and poultry; Jonnie Simmons, poultry; Oscar Thomas, corn; and Walter Spencer, poultry, corn and cotton. Short discussions were conducted at

each of these demonstrations on procedures followed in conducting demonstrations.

Prof. J. W. Sanders, Veteran Trainer Teacher; Prof. Ingraham, Vocational Agriculture of Brooks County Training School and Prof. William T. Harris, negro county agent of Brooks county led the discussions at each demonstration and brought out many helpful points on the demonstrations



Atlanta Ga. Daily World

REGIONAL EXTENSION CONFERENCE— Federal Extension officials chat with Dr. E. B. Evans, president of Prairie View A. and M. College, Prairie View, Texas, following his address before the Regional Extension Conference recently at his school. Left to right are: Field Agent T. M. Campbell of Tuskegee, Dr. Evans, Assistant Extension Director H. H. Williamson of Washington, and John W. Mitchell, Extension field agent of Hampton. Seated in the background are 40 Extension supervisors from 13 States. The conferees discussed the need for enlarging the objectives of Extension work.

—(USDA Photo) Fri. 7-11-47

New Orleans La. Times-Picayune
August 14, 1947

IMPROVE FARMS, PLEA TO NEGROES

(The Associated Press)

Stoneville, Miss., Aug. 13.—"The Negro landowner is the bone and sinew of the Negro race," Thomas M. Campbell, Negro field agent of the Southern regional agricultural extension service, told 1000 of his race at the Delta experiment station's seventh annual Negro Delta Field Day Tuesday afternoon.

"Too many of our children are being led away from the farm and from the South. It is up to you to make your farm home life attractive and profitable enough to keep them at home," he said.

Campbell, from Alabama's Tuskegee Institute, is the first Negro agent appointed to the United States department of agriculture's extension service. In 1930 he received the Harmon award of agricultural service and was recently part of the church missions commission sent to study agricultural and educational conditions in West Africa.

He cited the poor living conditions of the Southern Negro as the principal reason for his leaving home. Most of these conditions, he said, could be remedied by the Negroes themselves.

"Nobody is going to come down here and do it for us," he said. "It behooves us not only to have a home, but to develop it."

Particularly, he advised, houses should be painted, or at least whitewashed; screens should be put on windows; sanitation practiced, and improved methods of farming should be studied.

"It is time we got serious about education," he said. "Judging from the action of parents who refuse to send their children to school and officials who don't enforce compulsory education laws, many of us aren't sympathetic with education."

The Negro Delta Field Day was first organized in 1941 by Charlie Burton, Negro Washington county agent, and the late Washington county agent, J. W. Whitaker. At the first meeting some 200 Negro landowners toured the experiment station at Stoneville and heard addresses on farming problems. This year the meeting was attended by 1000 Negroes from 18 Delta counties.

Extension Workers Increased by 197

Courier
Kansas City

WASHINGTON—Of the 924 additional agriculture extension workers appointed in the South through Bankhead-Flannagan funds since the 1945 fiscal year, 197 or 21 per cent were colored, reports M. L. Wilson, director of Extension Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Pittsburgh Pa

North Carolina leads the list of states with the appointment of thirty-six additional colored farm and home demonstration agents and supervisors; and Mississippi is second with the appointment of thirty-one. The total number of colored Extension Service agents and supervisors stood at 790 as of June 30.

IN THE NATION'S CAPITOL

By LOUIS LAUTIER

For the NNPA News Service

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 provides for what is called the Cooperative Extension Service. Extension work in agriculture and home economics is carried on by the Agriculture Department and the land-grant colleges. It consists of giving instruction and practical demonstration to persons not attending or resident in a land-grant college.

An agreement between the Secretary of Agriculture and the president of the land grant college provides that there shall be at the State level an extension service which shall have an extension director. The selection on this director is initiated by the college and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. Informer Houston

The organization of the extension service includes a group of specialists who are on the college campus and who are usually housed with the particular line of work they represent. For example, the animal-husbandry specialist would be in the animal-husbandry department. 12-6-47.

Programs are worked out at the State level and submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture for approval. For example, a state will have a project dealing with dairying, which is an outline of what is considered major dairy problems — how the problems are to be attacked, what is to be taught and demonstrated, who are going to do it, the budget and other various matters.

One objective of the program is the improvement of economic, social and spiritual well-being. Another is the improvement of farm income through the application of science and farm mechanization. A third is the improvement of the people through better nutrition and more adequate health facilities and services.

From the State level the extension service drops to the county level. The county extension office in 2,980 counties is the unit by which the objectives of the Cooperative Extension Service are attained as it works with rural people.

Allotments to Southern States maintaining separate land-grant colleges for white and colored students, of Federal funds for cooperative agricultural extension work in the fiscal year 1947, were as follows: Informer

Alabama, $1,038,827.50; Arkansas $864,441.47; Delaware, $89,307.74; Florida, $322,593.82; Georgia, $1,084,09527; Kentucky $986,860.76; Louisiana, $687,482.46; Maryland, $262,065.69; Mississippi, $1,056,083.43; Missouri, $892,624.91; North Carolina, $1,279,980.64; Oklahoma $791,702.59; South Carolina $733,995.61. Houston Informer

Tennessee, $987,147.56; Texas, $1,742,278.82; Virginia, $798,607.34; West Virginia, $488,765.39.

As of December 31, 1946, there were 716 State directors and supervisors, 1,827 specialists, and 1,68[illegible] clerks, or a total of 4,223 workers; 2,935 county agents, 1,791 assistant county agents, 2,215 home demonstration agents, 862 assistant home demonstration agents, 400 4-H Club agents, 78 assistant 4-H Club agents, and 4,000 clerks, or a total of 12,281 county workers.

Although the Federal Extension Service is in administrative control of State and county services through its power of approval and certification for payment of Federal funds there are only approximately 81[illegible] colored county agents, the employment of nearly 300 of whom was made possible by war emergency funds available for that purpose by President Roosevelt.

Moreover, in each of the Southern States, excepting Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri, salary differentials makes the highest salary paid to colored county agents approximate the lowest salary paid white assistant county agents. Sat. 12-6-47

Average annual salaries in three of the Southern States in December, 1946, were as follows:

Louisiana — County agents, average, $4,019; high, $5,900; low $3,400; assistant county agents, average $2,821; high, $3,160; low, $2,600; colored county agents, average $2,287; high, $2,660; low, $2,100.

Mississippi — County agents, average, $3,739; high, $5,120; low, $2,640; assistant county agents, average, $3,060; high, $3,750; low $3,000; colored county agents, average, $2,142; high $3,120; low, $1,620.

Texas — County agents, average $3,302; high, $4,750; low, $2,300 assistant county agents, average $2,526; high, $3,700; low, $1,898 colored county agents, average $2,066; high, $2,884; low, $2,100.

And Don't Come Back!

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa

U. S. Official Run Out of Town.

(Pittsburgh Courier Press Service)

COLUMBIA, La.—Not even an official United States Government car gets respect in this community of 900 population.

That was indicated last week when Lawrence J. (Honey) Washington, an employe of the Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Administration, Mr. Washington had been sent was ordered out of town. to this Louisiana County to work official in the Mr. Washington, who lives in the Negro f car at the Washington, D. C., found an un- the county supervisor. munity of 900 population. signed note on the Government The sheriff first called the super- That was indicated last week car he was using. The note read: Wind up your business today visor and told him that they when Lawrence J. (Honey) and get the h–l out of town and didn't want Washington, an employe of the don't come back." Washington work- Department of Agriculture's

THREATS Sat. 12-13-47

was mysteriously slain from ambush in this same area.

on the Farmers Home Administration program at the invitation of the supervisor.

A little later a mob formed around his car and hurled threats at Washington as he drove away from Columbia.

It was recalled that a few years ago, a Negro assistant FSA supervisor, Noel Bickham, explained to the supervisor that he was a Government official sent in to work

sheriff
ment

CAMPBELL RECEIVES AWARD — Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson, in left photo, congratulates T. M. Campbell, veteran Extension Service field agent of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, after presenting him with a Superior Service Award for his outstanding agricultural extension work. The award was presented on the Washington Monument grounds in the Nation's capital. Right: Members of Mr. Campbell's family admire the award. Left to right: Miss Rose Elizabeth Campbell, Mr. Campbell, Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. Emily Virginia Hawkins. Mr. Campbell lives at Tuskegee, Ala.—USDA Photos.

Algbama Negro Is Honored B Anderson For Extension Work

Birmingham News Age-Herald

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Nov. 29—Another disciple of Booker T. Washington who lives here has brought honor to himself, his race, Alabama and the South.

He is T. M. Campbell, Negro extension service field agent for seven Southern States. He is one of 33 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's 76,000 employes to receive a Superior Service Award.

The award, which included a certificate, a medal and a lapel pin, was presented to Extension Agent Campbell by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson in ceremonies in Washington Monday.

In making the presentation, Secretary Anderson said: "For your outstanding work among colored farm people, I present you this Superior Service Award. This not for doing a good job, but for work considerably over and beyond the call of duty. You have my good wishes and the good wishes of the entire department."

* S * O * N *

AMONG THE 1,500 who witnessed the ceremony were Agent Campbell's wife and two of their five children, one a physical therapist and the other a registered nurse. 11-30-47

Along with the Superior Service Award, Agent Campbell received a Length of Service Award for having served in the department 41 years. He was the first Negro extension worker employed by the department.

Employed jointly by Tuskegee Institute and the Department of Agriculture, Campbell went to work as a farm demonstration leader in Alabama Nov. 12, 1906. After a few weeks of preliminary contacts in Macon County, he climbed aboard the Jesup Wagon, Dr. George Washington Carver's school on wheels.

In this wagon he tightened the reins of the mules and said goodbye to Booker T. Washington and Dr. Carver. He drove off to carry agricultural education to the doors of Alabama farmers. His program consisted of distributing improved seed and conducting demonstrations in better farming practices and in improved homemaking.

* * *

CAMPBELL HAS WRITTEN A BOOK in which he relates some of his experiences during the early days of the Jesup Wagon. The book is entitled "The Movable School Goes to the Negro Farmer." A London edition was published last October.

In the book, he states he went out to show the farmers how to operate a mechanical cream separator and learned they had no cows. So he shifted his emphasis to pasture development and ownership of cows as a part of a sound live-at-home program.

That was the beginning of extension work for Negro farmers. Eight years later the Smith-Lever Act went into effect and the federal-state cooperative extension program was planned. Today some 800 trained Negro farm and home demonstration agents are employed by the Extension Service in the Southern states.

Campbell serves as regional field agent and helps supervise and coordinate the work of Negro agents in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

Campbell Gets Service Award From U. S.

Journal & Guide Norfolk Va. Sat 11-22-47

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Among the employes of the U. S. Department of Agriculture who received length of service and distinguished service awards last Wednesday, was the name of Thomas M. Campbell of the United States Extension Service, who lives at Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

Campbell has been working for the extension service for more than 40 years. He is a field agent in charge of the work among Negro extension agents in seven states.

The extension service began under Dr. Knapp in the early nineties. Thomas M. Campbell who graduated from Tuskegee Institute in 1906 was recommended by Dr. Booker T. Washington to Dr. Knapp. He was employed in 1906 and is said to be the oldest employe in point of service in the entire extension group.

Campbell Gets Service Award

Courier, Pittsburgh Pa.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Among the employes of the U. S. Department of agriculture who received length of service and distinguished service awards last Wednesday, was the name of Thomas M. Campbell of the United States Extension service, who lives at Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

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NEGRO FARM AGENT HONORED—Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson (left, above) presents a Superior Service Award to T. M. Campbell, of Tuskegee, extension service field agent for seven Southern states.

Negro Curb Market

Montgomery Advertiser

I visited the Negro curb market on Hill Street the other day. I found a dozen or more sellers on the market and I bought some of the nicest fresh vegetables I have purchased in years.

The establishment of this market was a fine thought brought to fruition. But I found the accommodations very bad. An effort had been made to stretch an old tent over the stalls but the tent was in rags and would keep out neither rain nor sun.

I hope the Negro growers will bring truck to this market. In time they will get better accommodations. They have made an auspicious beginning and they need encouragement. But after all, it is up to the Negroes themselves. The Lord helps those who help themselves. At least He has done so in the past.

The Negroes of Montgomery County can raise vegetables and truck. And there are plenty of customers if they will bring them to town.

Alabama Farmer, Father of 19 Children, Sends 17 to College

Afro-American
12-13-47 Sat. Baltimore, Md.

BIRMINGHAM (ANP)—In Pleasant Ridge, Ala., lives 64-year-old Charles H. Hughes, who owns a 1,300-acre farm, lives in a nine-room brick-and-stone house which cost $8,900 to build 20 years ago, and who has had 11 children by his first wife and 14 by his second mate. Nineteen are living and seventeen have been given a college education. Two others are presently in high school.

Engaged in cotton and livestock farming, he usually turns out from 125 to 130 bales of cotton annually. Quarterly he sells from 25 to 30 head of beef cattle. Mr. Hughes, who is a member of Shiloh CME Church, received no more than a seventh grade education, but he believes in education.

Since 1902 he has been a master Mason and for 23 years master of his lodge, No. 800, which has over 200 members. He was prize winner in the Order of Eastern Star of which he is patron. He attended the board of trustees meeting here Jan. 28 as guest of Grand Master Charles V. Hendley. The prize was awarded to Mr. Hughes for faithful services to the Masonic fraternity.

1b 1047

80-Acre Farm Nets $13,822

Ark. Farmer Cops Honors In State-wide Competition

Courier, Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat. 12-20-47

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Farmers Home Administration borrowers, both Negro and white, made a virtual clean sweep of the prizes in their respective divisions recently in the first annual Arkansas Live-at-Home and Balanced Farming Competition, sponsored by the Arkansas Press Association.

First place in the Negro landowner division was awarded Horace Gray, 50, head of a family of seven, whose eighty-acre farm near Luxora netted last year $13,822. Gray and other Negro winners were presented cash awards at a luncheon meeting at Arkansas Baptist College.

With seventy-five of his eighty acres under cultivation, Horace Gray had gross receipts totaling $17,922 from fifty acres of cotton, fourteen each of corn and beans, five acres of alfalfa, six acres in pasture and two acres in garden and truck.

FAMILY AID

A former sharecropper, who bought his farm with a forty-year Government loan and paid it off thirty-six years ahead of schedule, Gray operates his farm with the regular help of the members of the family, all of whom are on the farm payroll. Total receipts last year were $17,922, while the family and farm expenses were only $4,039. Courier

Second prize-winner in the landowner division was Dave Evans, 48, of Emmett, who farmed fifty-two acres, while third prize went to Clint Gordon, 32, a Farmers Home borrower, who farmed fifty-four acres near Earle. Gordon and his family won the Arkansas "Farm Family of the Year" contest sponsored by the Farmers Home Administration last spring. Selection was determined by managerial ability, farm and home improvement, soil conservation, increase in net income and retirement of indebtedness on the farm. Fourth place went to Tony Bomar of Greenbrier. Pittsburgh, Pa.

Honorable mention in the Landowner Division, all of whom are Farmers Home borrowers, are as follows: Warren Wise of Nevada County, B. J. Parker, Arkansas County; Manley Rice, Miller County; W. A. Spears, Hempstead County; L. C. Barley, Bradley County; Earlie Weightman, Lincoln County; Clarence Ashford, Cross County.

TENANT DIVISION Sat. 12-20-47

First place winner in the State-wide Tenant Division was awarded to William Hoskins, 51, of Driver, Ark., who showed a net profit of $11,243 from 200 acres, all of which are in cultivation.

Second and third place winners respectively were also captured by Farmers Home Aministration borrowers. They were Willie Stephens, 53, who cleared $3,006 in twenty-three acres near Marion and Frank Williams, 47, of Altheimer, who made $4,051 off fifty-nine acres. Honorable mention in this division went to Sam Price of Montrose.

Edtiorial notice was taken of Horace Gray's achievement by both the Arkansas Democrat and the Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock dailies.

Good News From Arkansas

Courier, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Arkansas press editorially waxed enthusiastic recently over the exploits of a Negro farmer, Horace Gray, from Luxora, in the first annual Arkansas Live-at-Home and Balanced Farming Competition sponsored by the Arkansas Press Association.

Horace Gray, the 50-year-old head of a family of seven, won first place in the Negro landowner division, his eighty-acre farm having netted last year $13,822.

Mr. Gray's gross receipts totaled $17,922 from fifty acres of cotton, fourteen acres each of corn and beans, five acres of alfalfa, six acres in pasture and two acres in garden and truck, which is pretty good for a former sharecropper who bought his farm with a forty-year Government loan and paid it off thirty-six years ahead of schedule. Sat-12-20-47

This Negro farmer operates his estate with the regular help of the members of his family, all of whom are on the farm payroll, and the total expenses were only $4,039.

Another prize winner was Clint Gordon, 32, who farmed fifty-four acres near Earle, Ark., and won the Arkansas "Farm Family of the Year" contest sponsored by the Farmers Home Administration last spring.

In the State-wide tenant division the first place winner was another colored farmer, William Hoskins, 51, of Driver, Ark., who netted $11,243 from the cultivation of 200 acres.

There were several other Negro prize farmers who cleared large sums from the results of their initiative and industry.

This is interesting news in view of the widespread propaganda about the alleged dire plight of Negroes in the South, which certain elements eagerly circulate in their efforts to prove how bad the South is.

HAROLD MARTIN

O'Neal Showed His People the Way

It was enough to make a ham-hungry man drool like a bottle-hungry baby. When you opened the door to the auditorium the good smokehouse smell rushed into the nostrils—a smell no country boy will ever forget. It is a smell made up of the sharp tang of hickory smoke and the smell of salt and the smell of the cured meat itself.

The sight of the auditorium would have started a riot just a few months back in the lean, meatless days. Before the stage of the auditorium they had built up a bank of hams. It was as high as a man's head and as broad as the stage, and the hams were laid on it so thick there wasn't room between them to put an egg.

The stage was a bower of hams—hams in the front row, hung from stout two by fours, and back of the hams the shoulders, and back of the shoulders the side meat. And then, as a background to all this festooning of hams, there was a back wall banked with eggs.

Then along the walls they had hung charts showing what the families of the community had done to feed themselves beside grow hogs for hams and chickens for eggs. The charts showed how many thousands of cans of vegetables the people had put up and how much stock feed they had grown.

Symbol It was the 32d annual Ham and Egg Show at the Fort Valley State College. It was the best show they had had yet. There were 600 hams on display. They weren't slick, smooth-looking hams like you see in the showcases of the city butcher shops. When you cut into these hams, the meat was not a rosy pink, like a store-bought ham. These were rough-trimmed hams. And the meat was dark. But they had the flavor of ham. They had that fine taste of the country ham that has wedded the hickory smoke, that has taken the salt.

They were fine hams—and they stood for something pretty tremendous. They were the symbol of what a Georgia community could do when a man came along to show people how to do things. They were a tribute to the labor of many hands, but they were there because one man had an idea.

Thirty-two years ago a slender young Negro named Otis O'Neal finished his training as a county agent and went back to his home county to try to do something for his people. It was easy enough to see what had to be done, but doing it was something else again. Everything his people ate they bought at the store. They bought their meat and their lard and their meal and their syrup. They didn't buy enough to satisfy them, because they didn't have the money to buy enough. They were a lean and a hungry people. They worked the other man's land and they lived and died in debt.

Talk O'Neal didn't think that was the way a man ought to live. A man who lived on the land ought to live OFF the land. He started going about among his people, talking to them.

"How come you couldn't raise a hog?" he'd say, "so you can have some meat of your own. How come you can't raise you some chickens and have you some eggs? How come you can't keep a cow and have some milk for your little children to grow up on, strong and stout How come you can't own a little piece of land of your own?"

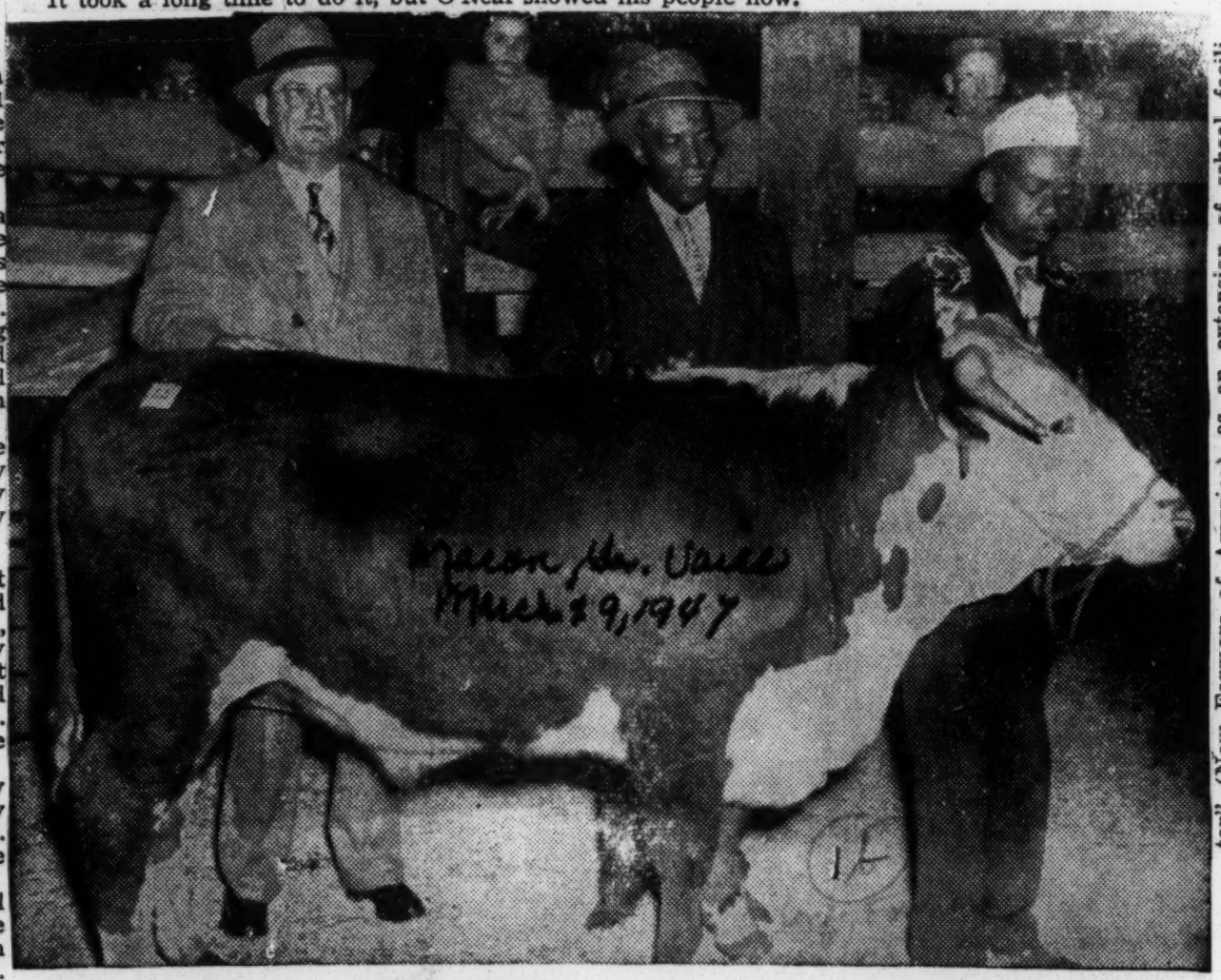
O'Neal showed them. He traveled the county, talking about the hog and the hen. He talked about owning a little piece of land. He showed them how, if they could raise what they ate, they'd have some money to put by, and with this money they saved they could buy them some land.

Start It was hard going. The people said they'd try. They started in. Sue Myrick, on the Macon Telegraph, pretended that she remembered the first time they had the Ham and Egg Show. She said she remembered the first hog that was raised by a family under O'Neal's urging. She says you never saw such a hog in your life. It was a razorback hog.

"And when that hog was butchered and cut up and rendered into lard, you know what was left," she said. "Two bushels of chitlins and a quart of turpentine."

There has been great progress in 32 years. The 600 hams on display at the show just finished came from good fat hogs. The 250 dozen eggs on display, just a tiny fraction of the thousands of eggs produced in that community during the past year. And there were 50 farmers there who owned their own farms—farms that ranged from more than 600 acres down to 25 acres or so, but all thriving, profitable farms.

It took a long time to do it, but O'Neal showed his people how.



TOP HONOR FOR NEGRO EXHIBIT—Peyton Jones, representing the Bankers Health and Life Insurance Company, bought the grand champion steer, exhibited by Negro 4-H Club Member Jimmy McElroy at the Macon Fat Cattle Show, paying 80 cents a pound, or $477.50. Photographer Floyd Snider of Drinnon Company made this shot just after the sale, showing Jones with Bibb County Agent for Negroes H. S. Lee and McElroy.

Southern Specialists Seek Better Agriculture Plan

Problems of Vet-Farmers Emphasized During Five-Day Conference at Howard

WASHINGTON

The future of the South's small farmers—particularly ex-GI farmers—looked brighted here this week at the end of a five-day regional conference of State supervisors and teacher trainers from 17 States.

Directed by W. N. Elam, white, Federal agent for vocational education in agriculture, U.S. Office of Education, Washington, the meeting was strictly professional in nature.

It brought to Howard University reports on some of the latest practices in vocational agriculture.

Better Program Sought

Grouped around a long table in the browsing room of the Howard Library, agricultural specialists, directors of agriculture in several colleges, State supervisors and teachers trainers, literally took off their coats and thrashed out ways and means of making the agriculture program more effective.

In the top drawer lever, Dr. Ambrose Caliver pointed out effects of recent social and economic changes in general educational objectives.

At the closing session, Thursday, C. R. Wilkey, white, supervisor from Arkansas, led a discussion on helping the veteran.

Generally, the sessions dealt with pertinent problems of a how-I-can-do-a-better-job, self-improvement level.

Tour of Capital Arranged

For those who had not seen the nation's capital before, there was a tour of the Capitol and other points of interest, here and in Mount Vernon.

There was a banquet given by Howard University on Thursday night, at which Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president, extended a welcome.

The white delegates stayed at a downtown hotel. Most of the colored were placed in Carver Hall.

One of the outstanding presentations of the conference was made by J. A. Oliver, teacher trainer at Princess Anne College, Princess Anne, Md.

Interracial Activities Discussed

His theme, "Organizing and Conducting a Successful NFA Chapter" (New Farmers of America), as an extension of school facilities, included such activities as interracial contacts, parent-teacher groups, hay-rides and exchange tours with other chapters.

Another highlight was the discussion of co-operative farm organizations, led by Cornelius King, State supervisor.

MARYLAND: J. A. Oliver, Princess Anne; Harry M. McDonald, white, State supervisor.

VIRGINIA: J. R. Thomas, State teacher trainer; N. A. Fields, assistant; F. B. Gale, white, supervisor; R. E. Bass, white, assistant.

TENNESSEE: Cornelius King, Tennessee State; W. A. Flowers, teacher trainer; C. E. Brimm, white, supervisor.

OKLAHOMA: D. C. Jones, teacher

Trainer.

GEORGIA: Alva Tubbs, itinerant teacher trainer; S. P. Fugate, itinerant; Benjamin Anderson, resident; C. L. Ellison, director; C. V. Troup, president, Fort Valley; T. G. Walters, white, supervisor.

TEXAS: Dr. E. M. Norris, resident teacher trainer, Prairie View; O. J. Thomas, itinerant; W. D. Thompson, area supervisor; S. E. Palmer, area 2; Gus Jones.

NORTH CAROLINA: S. B. Simmons, A. and T. College, teacher; W. T. Johnson, A. and T. College; Roy H. Thomas, white, supervisor.

LOUISIANA: M. J. Clark, teacher trainer; Dallas B. Matthews, itinerant; E. C. Wright, teacher trainer; J. J. Arcenaux, white, supervisor.

FLORIDA: L. A. Marshall, teacher trainer; H. E. Wood, white, supervisor.

MISSISSIPPI: A. D. Fobbs, Alcorn College; A. P. Fatherree, white, supervisor. 524.2-02-47

ARKANSAS: L. R. Garner, Pine Bluff; C. R. Wilkey, white, Little Rock.

WEST VIRGINIA: J. J. Mark, West Virginia State College.

MISSOURI: J. N. Freeman, Lincoln University, Jefferson City.

SOUTH CAROLINA: G. Buckman, South Carolina State; W. R. Carter, white, supervisor.

KENTUCKY: P. J. Manly, Kentucky State; S. S. Wilson, white, assistant supervisor.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
July 27, 1947

Log Cabin Jamboree Aug. 6 To Point Negro Farm March

When the first Southwide Soil Conservation Jamboree for Negro farmers is held Aug. 6 at Log Cabin Center in Hancock County, another milestone in Negro advancement on the farm will be reached.

The Negro farm ownership movement started nearly 80 years ago when a white man in Warren County said to Negro Zack Hubert: "Zack, you should buy a farm for yourself. . . . Every man should own the land that he farms."

Zack found him some land in Hancock County, rolled up his sleeves and became owner of the property in three years, according to his son, Benjamin F. Hubert, who will assist with the Conservation Jamboree. Since then, inspired by Zack Hubert, Negroes in Hancock County have worked tirelessly to become farm owners. The Log Cabin Community, widely and favorably known, is the result.

Log Cabin Community Negroes own more than 12,000 acres of land. In the past six years, Negroes in this community have purchased more than 30 farms. They have recognized the importance of the lumber industry—and have sold much timber. They have come to appreciate the value of cattle as a source of income—and have increased the cattle population in the community more than 1,000 percent.

Log Cabin Community has a 400-member church, which grew from an old brush arbor meeting; a 10-teacher school, which evolved from a one-room cabin; a Girl Scout center, the only one in America expressly for Negro girls; a community house, community lunch, community store, parsonage, swimming pool and health center.

Benjamin Hubert said the South-Wide Conservation Jamboree for Negro farmers is "just another tangible evidence of the sensible down-to-earth straight thinking of black men in Log Cabin Community who, co-operating with white friends, have not been afraid to stick their feet in the soil and challenge other black men to follow their inspiring example."

At the Jamboree, the Association for the Advancement of Negro Country Life will award achievement prizes of $100 to the outstanding Negro farmer in each Southern State who has made "the finest record in soil building and realistic farming practices in 1947."

Agent Issues Challenge For Better Instruction

Daily World Atlanta, Ga. Thurs. 2-20-47

1b

By JAMES L. HICKS
(NNPA Staff Writer)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Only 6 per cent of the 610,713 colored farm boys in the south who want and need farmer training are being reached by the teachings of the 881 agricultural teachers, but funds are now available for an additional 5,000 teachers if the present educational structure is ready to meet the challenge, W. N. Elam, Federal agent for the United States Office of Education, declared here last Monday.

Mr. Elam's challenge was thrown to nineteen colored teachers and teacher trainers of agriculture from eleven southern states and their state supervisors of education, who met in a five-day conference at Howard University to explore methods of extending the Office of Education's organized farm instruction program to more colored farm boys.

The conference opened last Monday in the Browsing Room of Howard's Founders' Library, where all sessions were held. It closed last Friday with a round-table discussion on problems of farm veterans.

Opportunity Needed

Mr. Elam told the teachers that though there are 610,713 colored farm boys in the south who should have the opportunity to study vocational agriculture, there are only 38,474 actually enrolled in all-day and part-time vocational agricultural study.

"Assuming that only half of the 610,713 would and should study vocational agriculture, that leaves 266,882 who should be enrolled," he declared.

He stated that 5,000 additional colored agricultural teachers are needed to make the program as effective as it should be, and surprised his audience by declaring that funds are already available to pay the additional teachers' salaries.

He stated that 5,000 additional colored agricultural teachers are needed to make the program as effective as it should be, and surprised his audience by declaring that funds are already available to pay the additional teachers' salaries.

2-20-47

"I am sure you are asking yourself if the money is available," Mr. Elam said. "The United States Congress answered that question last year when it passed the George Barden Act with only one dissenting vote. The public is ready to pay the bill. Are we ready to meet the challenge?"

Daily World 1b

(Editor's note: The George Barden Act is an amendment to the George Dean Act increasing the Federal appropriation for agricultural education from $14,200,000 to $29,300,000.)

Mr. Elam expressed concern over whether the existing educational structure was prepared to meet the challenge offered by passage of the George Barden Act.

"What would you do if you had five times the number of teachers to train that you now have or five times the number of students enrolled in your classes?" he asked the teachers. He reminded them that they had come to the conference to find the answer.

Atlanta, Ga.

He then outlined four specific situations which the colored farmer faces and offered specific solutions to their problems.

He said: Thurs. 2-20-47

Most colored farms are too small to provide a living for a family.

Mechanized farm machinery is making it increasingly difficult for the small farmer to survive.

Adult farmers need to be trained in the benefit of farm cooperatives for machinery, buying, selling, and many other cooperative activities in order to meet the farm mechanized age.

Colored farm families need better homes.

Sparta, Ga., Ishmaelite
February 27, 1947

COLORED FARMERS HAD CONFERENCE

1b

The Hancock County Annual Farmer's Conference was held Friday, Feb. 21st., at the St. Mark A. M. E. church with an attendance of two hundred or more farmers from Hancock and adjoining counties.

Theme of Conference: "Using Our Human and Natural Resources In Farming For Education, Peace and Happiness."

Rev. Jackson, pastor of the St. Mark A. M. E. church opened the morning session, while Rev. Bailey, pastor of the Holsey Memorial C. M. E. church, gave the Welcome Address.

1b

L. D. Kennedy, Negro County Agent, gave the purpose and aim of meeting and introduced Mr. Wilton Stewart, white County Agent, who gave the agricultural outlook for 1947. This adjourned the meeting for dinner.

The afternoon session began with Rev. J. T. McMillan presiding, followed by a panel discussion composed of men and women who were highly efficient and well experienced in the field of religion, education, agriculture, health, and the problems confronting the Negro farmers.

The panel discussion was led by Prof. Alexander Hurse, Negro State Club Agent, Prof Alva Tabor, Negro District Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture, J. O. Williams, Negro State Supervisor P. M. A., J. Johnson, Farm Management, Fort Valley State College, Camilla Weems, Assistant Negro State Agent, Rev. Davis, pastor of Warren Chapel Circuit, Richard Richardson, On the Job Training Program of Negro Veterans, and Mary Branch, Health Education, Fort Valley State College.

The climax of the meeting came with the introduction of Field Agent T. M. Campbell, speaker of the occasion by State Agent P. H. Stone.

Prof. Campbell talked to the farmers from the theme. He pointed out vividly "how farmers through agricultural planning and conscientious work can make for themselves greater security, greater peace and greater happiness on the farm where they are."

MARVIN LEWIS, Trainee.
L. D. KENNEDY,
Negro County Agent.

James Brown Wins Negro Fat Stock Prize

The News Birmingham, Ala.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., April 9—(AP)—James Brown, Greene County 4-H Club member, showed the grand champion calf yesterday in the Montgomery Negro Fat Stock Show.

The champion, an Aberdeen-Angus, was to be auctioned today by Gov. James E. Folsom.

Wed.

A Hereford calf entered by George Y. Jones, Sumter County 4-H Club member, was named reserve champion.

4-9-47

More than 250 cattle from 21 counties were entered in what was the third annual show here.

Winners in the county exhibits were named in the following order: Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Conecuh, Sumter, Wilcox, Autauga, Monroe and Chambers.

The News

In the only adult division of the show, Charles Means, of Greene County, won first place with 10 Hereford steers in the heavyweight class, and Cal Jones, also of Greene, took first place with 10 Herefords in the lightweight section.

4-9-47

Stock Arrives For Negro Fat Calf Show, Sale

The Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

Grand Champion Picked Tomorrow; Auction To Be Wednesday

Mon. 4-7-47

Fat calves for the Third Annual Negro Fat Stock Show and Sale will arrive at the Union Stockyards today from a wide area of central and south Alabama. Carefully fed and tended by members of the Negro 4-H Club and NFA groups, the entries will be judged, champions of the various breeds selected, and a grand champion of the show chosen, Tuesday. The auction Wednesday, at which approximately 300 calves will be offered, will conclude the event.

4-7-47

Paul Fuller, Secretary of the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that calves will be entered from the following counties: Autauga, Bullock, Butler, Chambers, Conecuh, Coosa, Crenshaw, Elmore, Greene, Hale, Henry, Houston, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery, Perry, Randolph, Sumter, Talladega, Tuscaloosa and Wilcox. Negro farmers and livestock producers have had an active and increasing part in production of better farm crops and better livestock in this area, and the progress they have made will be reflected in the show of Tuesday and Wednesday.

4-7-47

In addition to the judging at the stockyards, a big feature of tomorrow's program will be the banquet for 4-H and NFA members, at State Teachers College, Tuesday evening.

Mon.

Chairmen of major committees for the show are as follows: Receiving, T. R. Agnew, Negro State 4-H Leader for Boys, Tuskegee. Show, W. B. Hill, Negro District Agent, Tuskegee. Records and Reports, C. C. Lanier, Negro District Agent, Tuskegee. Entertainment, J. T. Alexander, Negro County Agent, Montgomery County. Rules, Eligibility and Classification. J. R. Otis, State Leader for Negro Work, Tuskegee.

Queen, Teacher Trainer for Vocational Education, Tuskegee, will be in charge of NFA entries.

Dr. R. S. Sugg, State Veterinarian. Auburn, will be judge of the show, and Col. Tom McCord, auctioneer.

Annual Negro Fat Stock Show Set Here Tuesday, Wed.

The Advertiser Montgomery, Ala. Sun. 4-6-47

The Third Annual Negro Fat Stock Show and Sale will be held at the Union Stockyards Tuesday and Wednesday, with all indications pointing to an event far surpassing the two previous years of the show's existence. Manager Glenn T. Stebbins, of the Union Stockyards, said yesterday that a total of 300 calves from 21 counties are expected to be entered, including carlot entries.

As in the case of the Montgomery Fat Stock Show during the past week, major interest will center in the junior entries. Negro 4-H Club members and members of the Negro Farmers Association, will send their highest quality animals here for the show. The fine quality of fat calves exhibited here by young Negro producers during the past two years has attracted much favorable comment. The show began in 1945, when only 35 calves were entered, boosted to 150 in 1946. Approximately $1,400 in premiums will be awarded this year.

The event will get underway, at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, with the grand champion will be named at 6:30 p.m., 4-H and NFA members will be guests at a banquet at State Teachers' College. The young exhibitors will be furnished with picture show passes, compliments of the management of State Theater and Carver Theater.

4-6-47

Sun.

Auction of entries, beginning with the grand champion will take place Wednesday, starting at 9:30 a.m.

The show is sponsored by the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce, and the Union Stockyards, with cooperation of the Extension Service and the Department of Vocational Agricultural Education.

Agriculture

J. R. Otis, State Negro Work, Tuskegee, Negro Fat Stock Show and Sale, Tuskegee, will be in charge of the show, and assistant superintendent. T. R. Agnew, Negro 4-H Leader for Boys, Tuskegee, will be in charge of Club entries, and F. T. Mc-

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
March 3, 1947

32nd Annual Ham and Egg Show Slated in Ft. Valley; Event Gets Underway at Negro College on March 6th

FT. VALLEY, March 2—The 32nd annual Ham and Egg Show will be held at Fort Valley State College here March 6 and 7, according to O. S. O'Neal, Negro county agent in Peach County.

One thousand pieces of meat—including 600 hams, 200 shoulders and 200 pieces of breakfast bacon — will be exhibited during the event, O'Neal said today. In addition, he pointed out, 250 dozen selected eggs and 12 pens of purebred chickens will be judged by poultry specialists.

Negro farmers, farm wives and 4-H Club members will attend the Peach County meeting. The adults will discuss with extension specialists the Negroes' efforts to improve their farm and home programs, he revealed. Ralph McGill, editor of the Atlanta Constitution and Walter S. Brown, director of the Extension Service, will appear on Friday's program.

A debate between 4-H Club members in Hunt high school and Perry training school on the relative benefits of hogs and cows to the United States will be held on Thursday night. Four hundred Negro 4-H club officers and members will stage a pageant.

Peyton Anderson, publisher of the Macon Telegraph, will award prizes of $20 and $15 to the hams judged first and second in the show. The annual show will end Friday night with a folk festival, the Negro leader said.

Agricultural leaders scheduled to appear on the program include Kenneth Treanor, economist; E. D. Alexander, agronomist; L. E. Farmer, marketing; Miss Kathleen Weldon, assistant 4-H Club leader; Miss Susan Mathews, nutritionist; Miss Martha McAlpine, family life specialist; Miss Katherine Lanier, food preservationist; Charles E. Bell, livestock specialist; W. A. Sutton, state 4-H club leader; Miss Lurline Collier, state home demonstration agent; Alexander Hurse, state Negro 4-H Club agent; Camilla Weems, assistant state agent for Negro work; Dr. C. C. Troup, Fort Valley State College president; P. H. Stone, state agent for Negro Extension work, and Mrs. M. L. Toomer, Negro home demonstration agent in Peach County.

Advertiser Staff Photo—Albert Kraus

THE GRAND CHAMPION of the Negro Fat Stock Show and Sale, which sold for a total of $1,850, is shown here with Gov. James E. Folsom, who auctioned off the calf and its exhibitor, James Brown, a 4-H Club member, of Greene County. In the picture, left to right, Haygood Paterson, state commissioner of agriculture; Folsom; Dr. J. R. Otis, leader of state Negro work, Auburn; J. L. Lawson, assistant director of the state extension service, and Brown.

Negro Stock Show Champion Brings Young Owner $1,850

James Brown, Negro 4-H Club boy from Greene County, listened happily as Gov. Folsom, turned auctioneer for the moment, got better and better bids for Brown's grand champion steer of the Negro Fat Stock Show, at the sale finale yesterday. The price went to $1.90 a pound, then $1.95. Applause broke out in the packed gallery as Gov. Folsom asked for another nickel, and got it. The grand champion, an Aberdeen-Angus, sold for $2 a pound, to set a new record for a Negro cattle show sale in Alabama—and probably in the nation, said stockmen

by members of such organizations as 4-H and FFA. As a result, last year's prices were abnormally boosted, it was stated. Prices generally this year were declared to be above the general market level for the various grades.

After the champion was sold, pion carlot, exhibited by Charles population. He acclaimed the Gov. Folsom yielded place to show and sale as definite proof Tom McCord. The 970-pound re- Means, Greene County, sold to of progress by Negroes.
serve grand champion, a Here- Swift & Co., at 22 1-2 cents a Although the grand champion
ford owned by George Y. Jones pound. A total of 261 animals of both the Negro Fat Stock
of Sumter County, brought 30 cents a pound, or $291. Swift & Co. was the buyer. The champ- In preliminary ly $50,000 ging approximate- Show and the Montgomery Fat
pion Shorthorn, owned by Ophe- ceding the sale, Gov. Folsom Stock Show of last week set
lia Carter, Greene County, weigh- remarks pre- dicted that Ala- new high record prices for Ala-
ed 925 pounds, bringing bama's progress was below bama, the general run of prices
last year. Stockmen depends 40 per cent upon the prog- ress Negroes make, as they con- ress was in effect with exemptions
Freeze, Eutaw. The grand cham- pion was sold, however, for animals exhibited

This Does It

Chicago, Ill. Defender Sat. 4-26-47

CHANNING TOBIAS was again on Collier's 23-man honor committee which gave Rep Walcott and former Senator La Follette the nod . . . Thomasina Johnson gets an AKA testimonial luncheon April 26 . . . A. H. Fuhr has the top spot in Farm Credit Administration formerly held by Cornelius King and the late Henry Hunt . . . William Armstrong won his way to a run-off primary for City Councilman in Jacksonville, Fla. . . . Montague Cobb exploded racial myths before the 742nd meeting of the Anthropological society of Washington.

Tuskegee Air Field to Become Farm Land

Afro American Sat-10-4-47

WASHINGTON (NNPA — Federal land at the Tuskegee Army Air Base has been turned over to the Farm Credit Administration for sale as farm land, it was learned last Friday.

The War Assets Administration said the airport property had been turned down by Federal, State and local authorities for use as an airport, and that it will probably be resold to its original owners, who will be given priority in its resale

The WAA said the buildings and installations located at the airport will be demolished and sold in "off site" sales.

Baltimore Md

Disposition of the hollow tile buildings on the base, known during the war as Mitchell Village, has not been determined, the WAA said. Sat. 10-4-47

16 GEORGIA FARMERS ORGANIZE BUREAU

Afro-Am Baltimore, Md

BLYTHE, Ga. Sat. (ANP) — Sixteen farmers here in Richmond County recently organized a bureau, the first of its kind, with the Rev. John Tarver as president Leon Robinson as vice-president and Daniel Harvey, secretary.

Richmond Co., Ga., Has New Farm Bureau

Defender Chicago, Ill.

BLYTHE, Ga.—The first Negro Farm Bureau organization in Richmond county was recently formed here and now well under way on its program of promoting the interest of the colored farmers.

The club opened with a membership of 16 of the leading Negro farmers of the Blythe section.

Farm Home Loans

The Good Earth

SNOW'S A MELTING, grease up the middle-buster, John Henry, and get ready to put some seed in the ground. The colored farmer is coming right along. Chicago, Ill., Defender

Take colored Joe Powell down near Chester, S. C. For 30 years he's been share-cropping and starving 'till eight years ago when he got a government Farm Home Loan. He's just made his last payment on his nearly 100 acres, a three-bedroom modern home and 15 Guernsey cows. Joe also has a lot of power machinery which he says no farmer can do without. Last year he made $9,-000. From crops, $7,200, from milk $740 and from seed $800. Aubrey Williams' Southern Farmer paper named Joe "Farmer of the Year" and presented him with a brand new kitchen sink.

Time was when the 673,000 little colored farmers in the South (used to be 915,000) had to pay $1.50 for every dollar borrowed. One of every three bales of cotton they raised went just for interest. Things are better now except in one or two bottom sections where Uncle Sam is even scared to go and things are st- same as slavery. Next week we better discuss how to get you[r] loan, because altho' far be it from us to start a back-to-the-far[m] movement, it sure beats living like diseased pigs in some souther[n] and Northern city slums we know. Sat. 3-15-47

Louisiana Has Fewer Tenant Farmers Now

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON

Although non-white farm owners became more numerous in Louisiana between 1940 and 1945, there was a notable decrease of non-white tenant farms in the State during that period, the Bureau of Census reveals.

Preliminary census figures show 11,102 fewer tenant farmers than there were in 1940, a decline of 22.9% compared with decreases of 18.6% and 5.9%, respectively, in the two preceding five-year periods. Sat. 3-8-47

There were 639 more non-white owned farms in Louisiana in 1945 than in 1940. The increase is believed due, in part, to the purchase of farms under terms of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act. Sat. 3-8-47

Ga. News
June 21, 1947

Georgia's Negro Farm Owners

Northern writers and commentators every now and then appear to find pleasure in referring to what they call the "Southern sharecropper," and particularly to such a person if he happens to belong to the colored race.

Recent figures, made public by the Federal Department of Agriculture, however, disclose in well-nigh startling fashion that negro owners of farms in Georgia are increasing every year, and that colored folk in this state own 1,024,369 acres of farm lands and buildings valued at what federal officials estimate to be $23,971,643!

During the five-year period, from April 1, 1940, to January 1, 1945, negro farms increased by more than 10,000, the number of colored farm operators advanced from 59,132 to 70,411 and negro farm owners increased from 10,018 to 12,352. In eighteen of Georgia's 159 counties negroes operate more than one-third of the farms, and in 19 counties there is a larger portion of negro farm owners than tenants, one of which is Chatham. Let the states in other sections of the country match those percentages proportionately—if they can!

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
August 13, 1947

Negro Owners Of Land Called

'Sinew of Race'

STONEVILLE, Miss., Aug. 13 (AP)—"The Negro landowner is the bone and sinew of the Negro race," Thomas M. Campbell, Negro field agent of the Southern Regional Agricultural Extension Service, told 1,000 of his race at the Delta Experiment station's seventh annual Negro delta field day Tuesday afternoon.

"Too many of our children are being led away from the farm and from the South. It is up to you to make your farm home life attractive and profitable enough to keep them at home," he said.

Campbell, from Alabama's Tuskegee institute, is the first Negro agent appointed to the U. S. Department of Agriculture's extension service. In 1930 he received the Harmon award of agricultural service and was recently part of the church missions commission sent to study agricultural and educational conditions in West Africa.

He cited the poor living conditions of the Southern Negro as the principal reason for his leaving home. Most of these conditions, he said, could be remedied by the Negroes themselves.

"Nobody is going to come down here and do it for us," he said. "It behooves us not only to have a home, but to develop it."

Particularly, he advised, houses should be painted, or at least whitewashed; screens should be put on windows; sanitation practiced, and improved methods of farming should be studied.

"It is time we got serious about education," he said. "Judging from the action of parents who refuse to send their children to school and officials who don't enforce compulsory education laws, many of us aren't sympathetic with education.

"We are plagued with delinquency among our youth. We have allowed our homes to become so disorganized that we are turning out the wrong kind of people. We must build our homes into desirable units. We can do it with the co-operation of all—white and colored alike."

Negro Landowner Bone Of Race, Worker Says

Birmingham Ala. Reporter

STONEVILLE, Miss., Aug. 14 (AP)—"The Negro landowner is the bone and sinew of the Negro race," Thomas M. Campbell, Negro field agent of the Southern Regional Agricultural Extension Service, told 1,000 of his race at the Delta Experiment Station's seventh annual Negro Delta Field Day Tuesday afternoon.

"Too many of our children are being led away from the farm and from the South. It is up to you to make your farm home life attractive and profitable enough to keep them at home," he said.

Campbell, from Alabama's Tuskegee Institute, is the first Negro agent appointed to the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Extension Service. In 1930 he received the Harmon Award of Agricultural Service and was recently part of the Church Missions Commission sent to study agricultural and educational conditions in West Africa.

Farms Owned By Texas Negroes On Increase

Chicago Defender
Chicago Sat.

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — According to the 1945 census of agriculture, owners operated 47.9 per cent of all non-white-operated farms in Texas. The value of land and buildings of farms operated by non-white owners in the state was $40,619,153 or $10,951,591 higher than in 1940. Sat. 8-30-47

There has been a decided decrease in the number of tenant farmers in the state since 1940. There was a loss of 8,732 tenant farmers.

Jennings Perry
PM New York, N.Y.

Two for One

Fri. 4-18-47

JACKSON, TENN.

The Farm Security Administration is running out of money, and that is bad. For, in the short view, the work of this Federal bureau has done more for the lives and prospects of the individuals and communities it has aided than that of any other social arm, and in the long view, with the most elemental needs of a whole people in mind. The job the FSA has been doing is the best insurance we have devised against the hazards that rise from stakeless men.

Perry

Originally a piece of New Deal humanitarianism, instituted to help in the rehabilitation of farm families ground down by the depression, the FSA has provided us with the answers to even graver problems with which all peoples and all lands have wrestled since history began. It has shown us how to forestall in America the social risk of a vast and growing landless peasantry. It has shown us how to head off the ruthless exploitation and fatal exhaustion of the soil which makes deserts and abases civilizations. It has shown us—it's most virtuous demonstration—how we may save the man and the land together.

Solvent Citizens of Penniless Tenants

I bear witness for the FSA as an eyewitness. I have watched it make solid and solvent citizens of penniless tenants who had never known, and had no hope of knowing, either independence or security. I have watched it "redistribute the land" in a manner not only painless to none, but helpful to all—and at no cost to the Nation save a healthy exercise of the public credit. And I am watching now, with pleasant fascination, the restorative effect of its program upon the land itself.

The farm tenant who is able and willing, but possesses nothing but life and brawn, is first aided to acquire the tools of his trade—farming implements, and stock and seed. Thus his welfare, his standing in the community, is promoted the first notch. Upon further evidence of his dilligence and trustworthiness, he is aided to acquire a piece of land of his own, with a decent house upon it.

This aid is extended to him in low-interest loans and practical guidance in accounting and improved farming methods, and it is a matter now of ample record that repayment of these loans has run far ahead of the rate at which repayment is scheduled in the FSA contract.

The public treasury has lost nothing; the tenant, now a landowner, has gained a lease on "the American standard of living"; the community has gained a new member whose constructive interest in its affairs reflects a newfound consciousness of responsibility and position.

What Is Happening To the Land

New York, PM, N.Y.

I have watched dozens of FSA interpositions work out like this in human terms, and the success of them is gratifying to me as one of the owners of this profitable bureaucracy. And I also have seen what is happening to the land—to the large holdings, virgin soil less than a century ago, but rapidly running down under the double bane of tenant occupancy and absentee ownership, that have been purchased and divided into FSA homesteads for families that never before have known the feel of a plot of earth of their own.

Fri. 4-18-47

This is important to America because we will subsist hereafter only as we conserve and replenish the productivity of the land we have inherited, which has been wasting away up to now at a reckless pace that should be alarming not only to "the Government," but to every member of the Nation. The FSA program of saving the land by bringing it under title to those who actually live upon it testified to a social wisdom we should exercise not by fits and starts, but without interruption. It is a vital act of conservation that a Republican Congress will starve and close only if it chooses to abandon all claim to the good word *conservative* habitually flaunted with the party name.

lb 1947

Federal Aid

Negro Farmer Sums Up Plea For U. S. Aid

Courier Journal 10 Feb.

House Group Hears Testimony In Deep South

Louisville, Ky.

Montgomery, Ala., Oct. 20 (AP) —A Mississippi Negro summed up for members of Congress today a mass plea by Deep South farmers for continuation of the federal farm program, including price supports, acreage allotments when necessary, and soil-conservation payments.

Testimony about long-range agriculture policy was getting repetitious when Joe Brooks stepped up before the House Agriculture Committee and said: "If the farmer is the backbone of the world—as some folks say—and this farm program expires next year, the world is going to have a very weak backbone."

White Farmers Cheer. Tues.

White farmers cheered. But Brooks wasn't through.

"Way back yonder there was a fellow that when his crops didn't look good, his wife left him," he said. "But when these parity payments came in his wife came back."

Brooks said that before the soil-conservation program was established he got half a bale of cotton to an acre from his land, but "this year I made 30 bales on 28 acres." 10-21-47

On Grass-Roots Tour.

The House group is on a grass-roots tour of the nation to learn what farmers want in the way of long-range agriculture policy. Much of the present farm legislation will expire at the end of 1948.

Farmers from seven Deep South states—Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Florida—paraded before the committee today urging that the present program be made permanent. Major emphasis was placed on soil conservation.

Farmers Tell House Group Of Problems

Montgomery Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

Congressional Delegation Holds Hearing Here; 7 States Represented

50 Give Testimony

Jour. 10-21-47

W. Randolph, Gould Beech, A. Williams, P. McLemore Are Among Those Heard

By G. C. LONG, JR.

A parade of farmers—big and little—and farm organization officials appeared before the touring U. S. House of Representatives Agriculture Committee here yesterday and urged the group not to permit Congress to decrease the federal government's aid to the farmers but to increase it.

In a day-long hearing approximately 50 witnesses from seven states appeared before the committee and asked for more security for Southern farm families. 10-21-47

Among the things sought by Southern farmers in the way of a long-range farm program for this country, as presented to the committee at its one-day hearing on its deepest penetration into the South, were:

1. Continuation of the soil conservation program, with its payments.
2. Support prices with from 90 to 100 per cent parity.
3. Better and bigger marketing and research program.
4. More and higher analysis fertilizer for Southern farms.
5. Credit loans and low interest rates for loans to buy homes, machinery and equipment.

What They Want

Summing up what the farmers from the South want, Ernest B. Johnson, Centralla Cooperative official, Selma, declared:

"Agriculture wants no special favors. Our only want is the same protection as is given industry and labor by the federal government." Jour. 10-21-47

Practically the same feeling had been stated earlier in the hearing by Charlie Rose of the Arkansas Agriculture Council, who stated:

"What we need is an equitable and sound economic (farm) program where the investment is good. Farm income should be comparable with that in business and labor. There must be equality between farm, industrial and labor incomes."

The House committee, only a part of which appeared here, is getting information on what farmers want in the way of a long range federal assistance program. Much of the legislation that is now on the statute books will expire next year.

To North Alabama

The committee members will leave here this morning to go to North Alabama to look over Tennessee Valley Authority installations and then will go on to Wisconsin for the next hearing.

During the session here yesterday farmers from seven states — Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas—presented their views of what the long-range farm program should be.

Price C. McLemore, Waugh, successful Montgomery County farmer, plugging for mechanization of farms, asserted that the basic principal of any farm program is soil conservation.

"It is of the utmost importance that soil conservation be continued and expanded," he said.

Saying that the South is backward in agriculture, McLemore charged that farms in this section are "geared to manpower and mule power" rather than being mechanized.

Emphasizing that "family size farms" are practical and emonomical, the Waugh farmer stated that the South's agriculture needs diversification.

Women Farm Laborers

McLemore said he had found that on Southern farms nearly 90 per cent of the farm labor, particularly for cotton picking, is made up of women and children.

Alabama Farm Bureau Federation President Walter L. Randolph pointed out that his organization felt the future federal program should continue support prices for farm products. He also plugged for farm quotas, saying that there would be no need for price control unless there were quotas.

Randolph said there was no need for widespread revision of the formula used to figure parity prices, but he said he felt that it should be changed to include labor.

He added he thought the appropriation for soil conservation should be $300,000,000.

State Agriculture Commissioner Haygood Paterson declared he thought three ills should be corrected if the Southern farmers were to be placed on an equal footing with other sections. He listed the ills as high shipping rates in comparison with other sections, price differentials at markets and a shortage of plant foods.

He pointed out that in 1946 Alabama farmers received only 82 per cent of the amount of fertilizers they received in 1945, while at least one state received an increase of over 1,000 per cent.

Outlet For Products

W. J. Hackett, state markets director, told the committee that if farmers were offered an outlet for their products they would be able to step up their production. It would also help them to diversify, he continued.

Tennessee Department of Agriculture representative, V. L. Fuqua, said his state was "sincerely interested" in soil conservation. He said he thought at least $300,000,000 should be appropriated by congress annually for the work but that $500,000,000 would be better.

He added that it would also be better if the money were distributed on a basis of need rather than by states.

Frank Earle, Baldwin County farmer, told the committee he thought the farmers should know what they were going to get for a crop and asked that price support be maintained in the future federal program.

He also stated that the federal government should have some way for a better distribution of farm crops, citing the destruction of a portion of the Baldwin County potato crop earlier this year.

As his solution to the distribution problem Earle suggested acreage control.

He also said there is a greater need than ever for farm cooperatives.

Asks Price Support

Saying that Tennessee farmers are not willing to give up their "hard earned" advantages, Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation President Tom Hitch asked for price support, revision of parity formula, continuation of soil conservation program and more fertilizer.

Presenting the program for the Alabama Farmers Union, Aubrey Williams, president, who is also publisher of The Southern Farmer, declared that the "war period and the postwar flush" have not changed the basic economic conditions in American agriculture.

He listed the things that are keeping the farmers poor as:

1. "A false price economy."
2. "A ruinous land policy, or in fact, no land policy at all."
3. "Barren information and education programs whereby farmers would get the current know-how of farming."
4. "A system of credits which keeps small farmers poor."
5. "A market which others control."
6. "A school system which is city-minded, bent upon training farm youth away from the farm rather than to love and stay on the farm."

"What all of these conditions add up to are three bed-rock problems: Land, debt, tenure," Williams stated.

What Williams Wants

To help the farmers the publisher said his Farmers' Union favored:

1. Organizations run and controlled by farmers.
2. A land policy tilted in favor of the working farmer.
3. Protection of the farmer by the government against outlandish rates of interest and ruinous forms of contract.
4. Restore the Extension Service to its former educational-technical work—or replace it with a bonafide educational and technical agency.
5. Continue soil conservation work and the program of REA, FHA, Commodity Credit Association and Production and Marketing Association.
6. Establish agricultural program committees along AAA lines.
7. Establishment of minimum and maximum prices each year ahead of the growing season.
8. A full employment proposal.

Gould Beech, Montgomery, editor of The Southern Farmer, asked for guaranteed credit for farmers so they will be able to buy such things as tractors. He added that at present tractors are available for only a few who want them.

In asking for guaranteed loans Beech said they would provide for lower down payments on equipment, longer terms for repayment and cheaper interest rates.

Minister's Views

Dr. Stanley Frazer, Elmore, a Methodist Church official, said that many farmers in his section could not have carried on had it not been for federal aid. He asked that the farm aid program be enlarged.

Pointing out that though farm commodity prices are high, Dr. Frazer stated that was offset by the high cost of materials needed by the farmers.

"Unless there is a continuance and enlargment of the farm program hundreds of farmers will suffer and be forced off their farms," he declared.

Some of the witnesses yesterday charged that there were "minority pressure groups" behind the move to have federal assistance to farmers cut, and they asked that the committee investigate "to see who is behind the move."

P. E. Williams, a Polk County, Florida, cattle farmer, asserted that agriculture was a victim of the minority pressure groups.

He said that the federal farm program should not be confused with a social welfare program and declared that the program was an investment in the country's natural resources.

Make Life Easier

J. D. Mott, an Alabama farmer from Red Level, asked the committee's help to make farm life easier for his wife and children and for those of other farmers.

He said all he wanted was a chance to have his home, farm

In addition to Representative George Grant, who was a member of the committee, other members of Alabama's congressional delegation attending the hearing yesterday were Senators Lister Hill and John Sparkman and Representatives Sam Hobbs, George Andrews and Pete Jarman.

Charleston, S. C., News-Courier
March 24, 1947

Negro 4-H Club Council Organized in Berkeley

MONCKS CORNER, March 23. Special: The Berkeley county council of negro 4-H club members was organized here recently at the Berkeley county training school with 92 clubsters and leaders and several parents present.

James Gadsden of St. Stephen, president; Julius Gibbs of Cordesville, vice president; Geraldine Pinckney of Ebenezer, secretary and treasurer, and Phyllis Thompson of Moncks Corner, assistant secretary.

Wayman Johnson of Orangeburg, assistant district agent, explained the purpose of the county 4-H council. R. C. Bacote, negro agricultural agent, presided.

An officers-leaders training meeting was held later with the following taking part: Susan F. Bailey, Jeannes, teacher in charge of leaders and parents; Leila Lindsay, school teacher, and Evelyn Simmons.

Others taking part in the program were Fannie M. Brown, negro home demonstration agent; Mabel Price, assistant state home agent, of Orangeburg, and Julius A. Amaker, Charleston negro agricultural agent.

Milledgeville, Ga., Recorder
March 27, 1947

Negro 4-H'ers Get Big Profit In Fat Cattle

A fat cattle show staged Saturday at the Farmers' Market brought a total of $1,845.25 to eleven Negro 4-H club members, it was announced Monday by C. O. Brown, colored farm agent in Baldwin county.

The participants paid their note for $950.30 at The Merchants and Farmers Bank, and found that the project had netted them a profit of $894.96. Several started savings accounts, while others are using their share to supply family needs.

Local merchants and friends gave a total of $38.00 in cash as premium money, and J. C. Baston contributed a bag of feed valued at $5.00. Those participating in the project are making plans for extending their activities next year. Local citizens who have pledged their support to Negro 4-H club work include, E. H. Jackson, county agent; Dr. Dawson Allen, and J. F. Bell.

L. C. Young was winner of first place; Frank Thomas, second; Audrey Davis, third; John Speights, fourth; William Bonner, Jr, fifth.

Johnny Speights won second place in the Macon show, and Nora Johnson was winner of sixth place.

4-H Separate Camp Planners Selected

Afro-American

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — Colored State leaders of agriculture extension work have completed formation of the committee which will draw up final plans for the first national 4-H Club Camp, to be held for colored 4-H farm workers in 1948. Baltimore, Md.

The Agriculture Department said Dr. J. R. Otis, State extension leader of Alabama, and Miss Dazelle F. Lowe, district home demonstration agent for North Carolina, have been named to the planning committee, which will meet here next August. Sat. 6-28-47

The committee already included T. M. Campbell and John W. Mitchell, extension service field agents; Charles A. Sheffield, head of the extension service's field agents in the South, and L. I. Jones, extension service director in Mississippi, chairman. Sat. 6-28-47

4 H'ers Plan Big Week

Courier, Pitts burgh, Pa.

WASHINGTON — National 4-H Achievement Week will be observed Nov. 1-9, Extension Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced. Approximately 300,000 colored farm boys and girls are 4-H members. 10-25-47

Pick Arkansas 4-H Champions

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Champion 4-H Club members received awards at a live-at-home banquet at Arkansas Baptist College recently.

Sat. 11-29-47

Annie Belle Walker, 18, of Nevada County, and Hanley J. Norment of Lee County, were named State champion 4-H Club girl and boy in achievement and leadership for 1947, it was announced by L. L. Phillips, 4-H Club agent.

Jimmie Faye Massey and Cleve Stepter won $50 each in the scholarship contest. Other winners included James D. Campbell, A. L. Billingsley Jr., Willie A. Cobbs, Herman Sykes and Frank Collier Jr.. 11-29-47

How a Boy Got His Bicycle

CLINTON MOORING

Texas 4-H club boy, shows off his champion Poland China sow and her pigs to W. C. David, right, state extension leader, and Charles E. Trout, left.

Pig Won in Essay Contest Helped 4-H Clubber Buy His First Bike

Afro-American Magazine
Balti More, Md.

By LOIS TAYLOR

CINDERELLA'S fairy godmother turned a pumpkin into a coach for her to travel in, but it's no fairy story how Clinton Mooring got his bicycle from a pig.

There's another tale in the pixie books about a goose that laid a golden egg, but it also had nothing on Clinton's pig which, in addition to providing the bicycle, brought her owner 37 other pigs, 150 baby chicks, 100 turkeys, a Jersey cow, and a calf, besides over $600 in cash in one year.

Clinton, who lives on a farm in Texas, is 15 years old, and a member of a 4-H Club. His pig is a pure-bred Poland China sow (or gilt, in livestock language) which he won with an essay he wrote on farm life. Sat. 12-27-47

And the beginning of all this story dates back to three years ago, when Clinton was 12 and did not have a pig or calf to take to the district fair.

So he entered his essay on farm life instead.

Essay Did It

The essay won the sow, which Clinton took home and kept well fed, well housed, and well groomed to such an extent that it outshone all other competitors at the district fair the following year.

It proved to be such a fine pig, in fact, that it won the district championship, and, with the championship, 150 White Leghorn baby chicks and a registered Jersey heifer.

The chickens laid eggs, the sow farrowed, the heifer had a calf, and young Mooring prospered.

With his egg money he bought 25 turkeys the first year and raised and sold them. Last year, he increased his turkey flock to 50. This year it numbers 100.

Of the 37 pigs produced by Clinton's sow, he has given eight to 4-H Club members in the community to help improve the quality of hogs in the county. He has sold 24 others and is now raising the remaining five for market.

Saving for College

In totalling up his gross income from his livestock last year, Clinton shows in his records $200 from eggs, $235 from turkeys, and $208 for pigs. After taking out feed expenses, which he owed his father, and money for a bicycle, he added the rest to his savings for college.

Now in the 10th grade, Clinton intends to study agriculture at Prairie View A. and M. College after he graduates from high school.

"I want to learn to be a real livestock farmer," he says. "Then I want to come back here and help my father develop and enlarge his farm."

The Moorings bought their 165-acre farm for $3,300 after being tenants for 18 years. Last year they were offered $20,000 for it, but they don't plan to sell.

"We bought our farm by scrimping and saving," Mrs. Myles Mooring said, "and we plan to hold on to it. Most of the money for the farm came from the sale of chickens and eggs and the things we grow on the side along with our cotton. We grow most of our own food, too.

"Now my husband and Clint are getting started with hogs and cattle," she continued. "By the time Clint is out of college, we ought to be ready to really go in for livestock."

Texas 4-H Youth Talented Farmer

Sat. 12-13-47

WASHINGTON

With an essay he won a pig, and with the pig he won a calf and 150 chickens. That's how Clinton Mooring, 15, a 4-H youth in Texas, got his start in livestock farming three years ago.

He did not have a pig or a calf to enter the district fair so he submitted an essay on farm life. It won him a pure bred Poland China pig which he was careful to keep well fed, properly housed, and well groomed.

The next year his gilt won the district championship and with it 150 White Leghorn baby chicks and a registered Jersey heifer

which has now has a calf. Say, 14 yrs. old
Income Aids Education

With egg money from his Leg- horns, Clinton bought 25 baby turkeys the next year, raised and sold them. Last year he increased his turkey flock to 50, and this year to 100.

His gross income last year in-

Growing Big Yams Pays Off in Cash For Dixie Farmer

Pittsburgh Courier
1k Pittsburgh Pa.

By JOHN A. DIAZ, Miami Correspondent

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.— The champion sweet potato grower of the South is a farmer of Leon County, Fla. He is Jack Crump. In 1946, he produced an average of 830 bushels per acre. Sat. 5-17-47

Mr. Crump is now 48. When 16, he upped his age to volunteer for service in World War I, and was wounded in combat at Verdun, France, where he served as second lieutenant. He owns 460 acres of farm land about ten miles from here.

Crump was born three miles from the land he now owns, completed high school and had two years of college training. He has two children, a son, Edward G., now attending college, and a daughter, Thelma G., now a freshman. Both attended Florida A. and M. College.

Jack Crump grows the copper-skin variety of sweet potatoes, the first seed stock of which was imported from the State of Louisiana in 1938 and used in crop production demonstrations in Leon, Marion, Columbia, and Jackson counties in Florida.

• • •

THROUGH THESE demonstrations it was beleved that a safe and dependable cash crop for small farmers would be developed. Through the efforts of farm agents, the variety grown by Crump was imported.

With the assistance of the State Experiment Station the follow-up of this project, with which the Plant Board of Agricultural Extension Specialists co-operated, the spread of these demonstrations increased from four counties in 1938 to thirty-one counties in 1946.

The farming achievement in the sweet potato crop of Mr. Crump was at first questioned by the department of agriculture of the State and other farm authorities of the State, but verification of Crump's potato crop was made by Nathan Mayo, commissioner of Agriculture of the State; Attorney J. Velma Keen of the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, County Commissioner McCraken, H. B. Franklin of Agriculture of the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce and George E. Lewis, president, Lewis State Bank of Tallahassee. All these officials went to Crump's farm and witnessed measurements and the potatoes produced.

Crump himself produced the seeds of the potatoes by a special method.

• • •

AS A RESULT of Mr. Crump's success with sweet potatoes, Leon County, in which his farm is situated, has planned to spread his results in other counties under the supervision of farm agents and vocational teachers in agriculture. The county's objective is to develop a $1,000,000 sweet potato industry. Sat. 5-17-47

The farmers of other counties, especially those in Northwest Florida, had to qualify with the State Plant Board as certified sweet potato plant growers of the copper skin variety before they could participate in the program.

Through English M. Greene, farm agent of Leon County, farmers supplied the Formost Properties, Inc., Penney Farms, with 50,000 certified plants this season besides supplying local farmers with this variety. More than a million certified plants have been supplied by all the participating counties this season, according to reports of farm agents, at prices from $3 to $3.50 per thousand.

Ills Of Farms Are Cured By This Medicine

The Advertiser Montgomery, Ala.

Its 'Plant To Prosper' And Its Remedy To End Poverty

Sun. 4-27-47

By WILL GRIMSLEY

MEMPHIS, TENN., April 26.—(AP)—Seven years ago Edgar Nicholson, of Swifton, Ark., was a sharecropper, working for a dollar a day.

His tenant home was ill-fitting and weather-warped. He had resigned himself, he said, to a life of "hard work and poor pay."

Today Nicholson, 32, his wife and three children live in a modern bungalow that sits astride 86 fertile acres. Their layout is electrically modern — and all their own.

Young Tom Alderson, of Toone, Tenn., saved his money and bought a farm from the Federal Land Bank.

The house was a shack, the barns beyond repair and the land eroded. There wasn't a terrace or sodded waterway. Not a seed had been sown.

"You can't make a living on that place," his friends warned.

Four years later Alderson netted an income of $5,836, derived from 16 different sources.

L. H. Majure, of Helena, Ark., toiled as a day laborer and sharecropper for 26 years. At the end of that time he was still poor, and with little hope.

Now he owns his own farm and reaps a healthy annual income from cotton, corn, hay, truck crops and livestock.

These are testimonials to new medicine a large part of the South has found for its agricultural ills. 4-27-47

They call it "plant to prosper."

The idea of "plant to prosper" was born informally in the editorial rooms of The Commercial Appeal, Memphis' morning newspaper, back in the early 1930's.

But it has outgrown itself as an ordinary newspaper public service project.

Thousands Gain by Plan

It is now a way of life for an area that rode one crop—cotton—to fabulous wealth years ago and then stubbornly followed one-crop farming to a point that it spelled "poverty, pellagra and ignorance" for many a small soil-tiller.

"Plant to prosper" is a gospel of crop diversification, farm management and live-at-home self-sufficiency that is patterning a richer, fuller existence for more than 100,000 farm families in Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi and Missouri.

In 1933, farmers were plowing up every third row of their cotton.

The Commercial Appeal ran a series of articles advising planters how to put the idle land to profitable use. But advice was not enough.

Thus: "Plant to prosper," a competition offering cash prizes for outstanding farm management.

The first year 1,800 families participated. Last year there were 102,497, almost half of them Negro, representing 7,000,000 acres of land.

Community Project

Director of the giant enterprise is Walter (Bull) Durham, veteran Commercial Appeal writer and former land owner. Chambers of Commerce, agricultural officials and civic clubs have put their shoulders to the wheel in the interest of better farming—and it's a community project.

Eenrollment, which begins Jan. 1, is handled by county agents and Farm Security Administration supervisors.

There are separate competitions for Negroes and whites and for land owners and tenants.

Farmers are given a score sheet to record their improvements through the year. They are graded on four points: (1) Living at home, utilizing everything the farm has to offer; (2) Diversification; (3) Soil conservation; (4) Home improvement. The Advertiser

More than 150 county weeklies and dailies help beat the drums. Periodic rallies are held to interest farmers and explain program benefits. County agents and home demonstration agents help farmers map improvement plans. Montgomery, Ala.

Champions Named

Shooting for more than $10,000 in prizes, in addition to various local awards, the farm families turn seriously to the idea of "planting to prosper."

First, county winners are chosen, then State champions. The grand sweepstakes prizes are awarded at a big banquet in Memphis before Christmas.

The stories of Nicholson, Alderson and Majure are the stories of sweepstakes champions.

The mid-South, which once rose and fell with its cotton, is rich in livestock, feed crops, vegetables and poultry. Sun.

The Farm Security Administration reports in one year the "plant to prosper's" actual value to the 250 counties it covers was close to $30,000,000. 4-27-47

The land is richer; so are the men who till it.

Negroes helped produce Nation's greatest crop

Los Angeles, Calif. Tribune

Sat. 1-11-47

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Over a half million colored farmers joined with five million white operators in 1946 to produce the greatest crop in the country's history, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported this week.

High yields were primarily responsible for the record crop, the department said. However, the large acreage harvested and the more favorable growing season were important contributing factors. Aggregate volume of crops last year was 26% above the 1923-32 (pre-drought) average, two points above the previous record of 1942 and 7 points above the 1945 crop.

A total of 52 crops were harvested off nearly 346 million acres, an acreage which was slightly smaller than during the previous three years, but larger than any year between 1933 and 1942.

Cash rceipts from farm marketing during the first 11 months of 1946 amounted to about 21.6 billion dollars—14% above the same period in 1945. Receipts from livestock and livestock products were approximately 10% greater than last year, and crop receipts about 19% higher. Increase in crop receipts was brought about mainly by large gains in receipts from cotton and oil bearing crops.

NEGRO FARMERS KEEP PACE Sat. 1-11-47

Negro farmers are keeping pace in the nation's agricultural production program, declared M. L. Wilson, director of extension service, in his 1946 annual report to Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson.

The director pointed out that 7 million rural Negro Americans* are out to produce their share of the country's food and fiber. Through sound soil conservation practices they increased their production of corn, peanuts, sugarcane, rice, and sweetpotatoes during the year following V-J Day, Wilson said. Also, they improved their pastures to care for increasing number of hogs, beef, and dairy catle.

(*Note: Although there are only a half million Negro farm owners, upwards of 7 million Negroes are engaged in farm work.)

Throughout the South, Negro extension workers—now numbering over 800—placed emphasis on the use of disease-free seed and plants, a range of plantings that would produce during all seasons, proper methods of canning, adequate storage space for cured meats, sweetpotatoes, and canned foods, the report stated further.

Referring to the sale of surplus products, Wilson said colored farm people organized several curb markets on which they sold garden products, poultry, eggs, cured meats, hand-made rugs, quilts, and spreads.

ADDITIONAL NEGRO FARM NEWS: Los Angeles Tribune

With a yield of 999 pounds of lint cotton per acre, Will McLeod, Negro tenant farmer, won the Scotland County, N. C., five-acre cotton contest. Los Angeles, Calif.

For netting $1,800 from his 4-H demonstration projects during the last three years and for all-round leadership achievement in 1946, James D. Campbell of Lee County, Ark., won the state championship for colored 4-H Boys.

Described as typical of thousands of colored ex-GI's and older farm youths all over the south who are organizing agricultural clubs to promote better farming is the Nansamond County, Va., organization, reported on by John W. Mitchell, extension service field agent of the department. Sat. 1-11-47

Composed of six ex-GI's and about a dozen older farm youths, the club has initiated hybrid corn, purebred swine, and poultry projects. Growing 16 acres of hybrid corn as a demonstration, the club members got a yield of 60 bushels per acre. The 8 members who tried their hand at raising purebred Berkshire swine got a fall pig crop of 53. Sat. 1-11-47

One club member, an ex-GI, selected poultry as his demonstration project. Starting out with 500 baby chicks, he has sold 250 fryers, 100 of his poorer layers, and still has 100 good layers that are bringing him $100 per month gross income.

U.S. Figures Show Drop in Tenant Farmers in Ala.

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON

Recent U.S. Department of Commerce figures show that in 1945, 67,230 farms in Alabama were operated by non-whites, a decline of 8.4% since 1940. Of this number 18,382 were operated by owners, 25 by managers and 48,823 by tenants. Sat. 4-5-47

However, there is a gain of 2,690 in the number of owner farms and a decline of 8,828 in tenant farms. This ownership reflects the rise of farm income and the purchase of farms under the Farm Tenant Act.

Attributes Success to Hard Work

Pittsburgh Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

By CHARLES DAVIS

(Staff Correspondent)

INDIANAPOLIS — Success of the Negro farmer is a story not often told but one which reads like a page from the saga of a great human drama. It is a story of hard work, defeats and finally success in one of the most open lines of work available.

This is the story of Ira Rice and his Rolling Meadows farm, nestled quietly, but firmly, in the fertile valley of the Hoosier State. Rolling Meadows was first acquired by Hansel Roberts, great grandfather of Mr. Rice, who settled here more than 100 years ago.

At that time it was land grant. You just staked your claim and filed it upon paying a small amount to the State. There were some sixty or seventy acres in that first parcel and it has been built and increased until today the farm consists of 275 acres of rolling, fertile ground. Sat. 7-19-47

IRA RICE is a farmer who believes in modern, labor-saving methods of working a farm. This is partly due to the university training he had as a lad. He was a student at Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., majoring in agriculture.

His brother, James, who is his only helper on the farm, is a graduate of Purdue where he studied chemistry.

So together the Rice brothers do pretty well at handling the tract of land and making it pay acre for acre.

Rolling Meadows is a beautiful spot. It looks more like a country estate. Located just thirty miles from Indianapolis, the farm has quick access to the stock markets. The more than sixty head of Hereford cattle have been turned out to pasture and Mr. Rice says they are growing by leaps and bounds. He has about 150 Poland China hogs and pigs.

* * *

THIS FARM is one of the 376 farms in the State which are operated by Negroes. These have been built up from the best that to get the best out of a dual hog houses and the

* * *

WHILE HERE I counter two grandchildren and the place several hog seems unusually quiet when they are not around. Two of the children are all gone from the family home and Mrs. Rice admits that they are too far away. She would rather they lived closer to home and could

Rolling Meadows has always put man must put the best implements in the farm. Rolling Meadows has the modern implements there is a new machine for storing a farm. In one of the feed barns, with the conventional ing grain. The Rices have been married living room, dining room and kitchen e bought a thirty-three years. They have downstairs and upstairs bedicken house, three sons and one daughter. rooms and bath. which makes Mrs. Rice said there are two IRA RICE has always put ge space for boys served with the United the managing of his farm. ows. All of States Army. The Rice home (and they had the individ- it built) is of brick structure o the feeding

...in more often if only for a visit.

The piano holds a picture of all the children and a daughter-in-law and a son-in-law. The very young granddaughter holds the spot of interest among her uncles and aunts.

Ira Rice and his brother, James, really operate two farms—Ira's and James'. One has 175 acres and the other 100 acres. The family has farmed this ground in Jackson Township just ten miles north of Westfield on the Old Driver Road in Hamilton County, Indiana for over 100 years.

* * *

THESE PEOPLE are hard working, well managing farmers. They run a completely mechanized farm and they ask nothing from life they are not willing to put into it.

When the doors of the little church adjoining Rolling Meadows is opened, Ira and "Dotty" Rice are on hand. They take their place in the community activities and are always willing to make contributions for its improvements.

The story of the Rice family and of Rolling Meadows Farm is congruent to that of Negro farmers in nearly all sections of the United States. It is merely a story of hard working, God-fearing people who wish to take their rightful place in life; and to live that life to the best of their ability.

Letter of the Week

"DEAR CHARLEY: In Roanoke, Texas, where I was born, I have several uncles who are considered very successful farmers. For several years they have entered livestock at the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show in Fort Worth and have won a number of prizes. At the recent State Fair at Dallas, one uncle, Emory Jones, won first prize for his grand champion boar. He and his brother, Jinks, also won first prize for their Poland China sow and received several other prizes for other livestock they had entered. I think this is a credit not only to them but to the fairness of the Texas live stock judges. Sincerely, James O. Evans."

(Evans has passed Civil Service exams as Soils Scientist and Conservationist, is a Wisconsin grad, and will study further in England.)

Can See To Can't See

LIFE IN THE FARM can be interesting. Tom Campbell, federal extension field agent, advised the other day in Virginia: "In addition to raising a top grade tobacco and fine healthy livestock and poultry, we must also grow a better crop of children."

Down near Hempstead, Texas, some 79 Negro farmers have a sort of cooperative for marketing their cucumbers. This year their combined 92 acres will at $1.50 a bushel bring them in $7,500. Farmer John Singleton handles the business end and says he stopped growing cotton in 1944. He now has 85 acres of watermelons, 85 corn, 180 pasture, five cucumbers and three cantaloupes.

In Pine Bluff, Ark., a colored teacher, Henry Foster, got tired of his $125-a-month in high school and started a poultry farm. He takes in $8,000 a year now. He used his biology training to cross-breed chickens so they lay eggs all over the place.

Write Tuskegee Institute for a copy of the "Negro Farmer" for September and read about the first "Milking Parlor" on the budding dairy farm of James Whitaker and Archie Dick. Or if you are motoring down the Atlanta-Montgomery highway, stop at their place nine miles East of Tuskegee. Chum, you don't know nothing. Every four minutes, two cows are ushered into the parlor, fed, udders washed and dried, milked, and ousted. The place is clean as a first class hospital. It's an education.

Farm Directory

By Hartwell Hatton

THERE are at least seven federal and four state agencies operating in Alabama solely in behalf of its farmers. In addition there is an undetermined number of private or voluntary organizations such as the Farm Bureau, the Farmers Marketing and Exchange Association, the Farmers Union, and cooperative groups too numerous to mention.

So many helping hands are extended in his direction that the farmer, himself, is some times confused. He is not always sure which blessings flow from whom and frequently gets his wires crossed. The non-agricultural public which helps to pay the bills of the federal and state agencies is quite understandably confused also. It is, therefore, in the interest of clarity that some of these instrumentalies are catalogued here.

Federal Agencies

PRODUCTION AND MARKETING ADMINISTRATION (P&MA): This auxiliary of the U. S. Department of Agriculture is the successor to the old AAA and is, perhaps, the most important of all federal agencies dealing with farmers. It administers the soil conservation program and under its supervision practice and participation payments are made. It handles commodity loans in the price support program, conducts marketing quota elections, look after the school lunch program, represents the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and administers crop insurance.

There is quite a bit of local home rule in the P&MA. It is under a state committee, of which W. B. Crawley, of Banks, is chairman; 67 county committees, and community committees. Its executive office is in Auburn and B. L. Collins is in charge there.

THE FARM HOME ADMINISTRATION, formerly the Farm Security Administration, administers two types of farm loans. One type of loan is to enable farm tenants to purchase land. The other type is to rehabilitate farmers who may be restored to economic stability by ready cash. It also conducts an educational program in agriculture and home economics. Julian Brown is state director. Its offices are in the old Gay Teague Hotel, Commerce and Bibb Streets, Montgomery.

THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE (SCS), an auxiliary of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, was established originally as a relief project to control soil erosion and help relieve unemployment. It has broadened its program to embrace soil conservation and land-use planning. It conducts educational and demonstration projects, giving technical advice. Through its conservation districts it reaches about 10 per cent of the state's farmers, mostly large land owners.

THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY (TVA), while not essentially an agricultural agency, conducts a soil program in close cooperation with the Agricultural Extension Service. Through Unit Test Demonstration (UTD) Farms it does extensive work in North Alabama to install profitable farming practices.

THE PRODUCTION CREDIT CORPORATION, an arm of the Farm Credit Administration, operates through regional Production Credit Associations. It makes short term loans to farmers and was notably active in the development of the beef cattle industry. Yancey Quinn is in charge of the Montgomery Production Credit Association.

THE FEDERAL LAND BANK, another arm of the Farm Credit Administration, operates in Alabama through National Farm Loan Associations. Its function is to extend long term credit to farmers.

THE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION (REA) is an auxiliary of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and its business is to foster extension of electric lines into normal areas. It works through local cooperatives.

State Agencies

THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES is the State equivalent of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It performs various inspection services, supervises the State markets system, cooperates with the federal crop reporting service, disseminates marketing information, and maintains a staff of experts in various lines of agricultural endeavor. It is presided over by a commissioner, the present incumbent being Haygood Paterson.

ALABAMA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, commonly known as Auburn, is a land grant college. Its main function has been to educate in agriculture.

THE ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION is a part of API and its director is the dean of the School of Agriculture. The main station is at Auburn but sub-stations are maintained in those areas of the state representing Alabama's several soil types.

THE EXTENSION SERVICE was created by passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1913. Its functions are educational. It is its business to see that the findings of the experiment station are communicated to farmers. It is charged with holding practical and useful demonstrations in agriculture and home economics. P. O. Davis is director. There are four district agents, 67 county agents, and 67 county home demonstration agents. It fosters the 4-H Club movement.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION is a function of the State Department of Education and embraces vocational agriculture. The vocational agriculture teachers in high schools foster Future Farmers of America chapters for boys and Future Homemakers of America chapters for girls.

Voluntary Organizations

THE FARM BUREAU came into being while World War I was in progress. Organization of county Farm Bureaus as voluntary organizations to work with county agents of the Extension Service was fostered by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Some years later Alabama's county Farm Bureaus were federated into the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation. Later still the state organizations that had come along were federated into a national organization—The American Farm Bureau Federation.

In its essence the Farm Bureau is the farmer's lobby at state and national levels. In addition to sponsoring laws that are beneficial and opposing laws it deems inimical to farmers, it has instituted various services at the local level, notably insurance at low cost. In Alabama the Farm Bureau has more than 60,000 members.

THE FARMERS MARKETING AND EXCHANGE ASSOCIATION is a wholesale consumers cooperative. It operates 10 retail branches in Alabama and lends its purchasing power to county exchanges in about 30 counties. Its central office is in Montgomery, presided over by A. N. Culver. Last year it grossed about two and a half million dollars and will return to patrons approximately $63,000 in patronage refunds. There are other large cooperatives operating in Alabama. The Tennessee Valley Cooperative at Decatur operates a fertilizer mixing plant, a seed cleaning plant, and is about ready to open its feed mill. Another large fertilizer cooperative, Centrala, is based at Selma. The Dairy Producers Cooperative is an outlet for a large number of dairies in the Montgomery milkshed. A similar cooperative has been organized in Birmingham.

THE FARMERS UNION is a relative newcomer to Alabama. It is organized in several counties and reportedly has about 2,000 members. It seeks to orient agricultural workers to the labor movement. Aubrey Williams is its president in this state.

1b 1947

Georgia

State's Negro Farms Hiked 10,000 in War

Negro farms in Georgia increased by more than 10,000 during war years, the U. S. Department of Commerce's Atlanta office reported Friday.

Between April 1, 1940, and Jan. 1, 1945, the number of Negro farm operators in the State increased from 59,132 to 70,411. At the same time, tenant farms increased from 49,078 to 58,015 and owner farms from 10,018 to 12,352.

Negroes operated more than one-third of the farms in Brooks, Bullock, Burke, Calhoun, Coweta, Early, Hancock, Jefferson, Laurens, Macon, Meriwether, Mitchell, Randolph, Screven, Terrell, Thomas, Washington and Worth Counties.

Randolph Negro Farm Operations Increase

WASHINGTON — Georgia Negro farm population made a tremendous increase during the five years after 1940 according to latest figures released by the Census Bureau. Figures show that the number of Negro farm operators jumped from 59,132 in 1940 to 70,411 in 1945. Negroes were running 11,279 more farms in 1945 than they had been running in 1940. Among counties that had the biggest in Negro farm operators were Randolph, Macon, and Washington.

In Brantley county there were more Negro farm owners than Negro farm tenants. The value of the Negro-operated farms in Georgia increased in value by nearly $34,000,000 in the five year period. Most of this increase (71.4 per cent) was in the value of tenant farms.

Sample increases in the value of Negro-operated farms for some South Georgia counties during the five year period are as follows: Bacon $54,880, Brantley $2,350, Pierce $295,143, and Randolph $642,062.

* * *

Southern Georgia dwellers will soon be on or near a new system of airlines recently approved by the Civil Aeronautics Board.

The new route approved for the Southern Airways will be between Atlanta and Jacksonville, and will give direct air service to such towns as Columbus, LaGrange, Albany, Moultrie and Valdosta. Other towns within driving distance to these points include, of course, Alma, Blackshear, Nahunta, and Cuthbert.

The CAB in commenting on its decision said that the area between Columbus and Jacksonville contained most of south Georgia's rich diversified farming and forestry product section. It went on to say that Columbus is an important manufacturing and trading center, and the commerce it attracts from the smaller south Georgia towns makes air service imperative.

The CAB also pointed out this air route would connect Georgia cities which have a strong common interest with Columbus and Jacksonville in commerce and tourist trade.

Georgia Gets 11,000 New Farms In 1945

(Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The total number of farms of non-white farm operators in the state of Georgia rose from 59,132 to 70,411 between April 1, 1940 and Jan. 1, 1945, according to final data from the 1945 Census of Agriculture released this week by Director J. C. Capt of the Bureau of Census.

Significantly, the lands in farms of non-white owners increased from 844,763 acres to 1,024,363 acres, or 21.3 per cent, betweeen April 1, 1940 and Jan. 1, 1945.

VIEWS and Reviews

BY GEORGE S. SCHUYLER

(This column represents the personal opinion of Mr. Schuyler and in no way reflects the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editors).

ONE OF THE SMARTEST economic moves for the advancement of Negroes since Wilson Lovett of Detroit and several prominent Chicagoans organized the National Investors Corporation, is the effort now being made by Benjamin F. Hubert, president of Georgia State College and head of the Log Cabin Community in central Georgia.

Mr. Hubert, who is a highly trained agriculturist, has for many years been preaching the better-farming doctrine among the colored farm owners of his State and has helped much in improving the quality of their stock and produce.

Ignoring the defeatist propaganda about the South, which is so prevalent and popular these days, he has held to the view that his people can prosper in that so-called benighted area by their own efforts. Using his Log Cabin Community as an example of what can be done, he has demonstrated the truth of his doctrine by practice.

Now he and his associates are preparing to market their products by delivery to all parts of the United States, using the Log Cabin Community as headquarters.

* * *

WHITE FARMERS have been doing this with excellent results for years. One can sit in New York, Chicago, St. Louis or Cincinnati and order apples from Oregon, hams from Virginia, and so forth, and in an incredibly short time the order will be delivered to one's door by express and even by air freight. There is no reason why groups of Negro farmers in the South cannot do likewise, and have the advice and cooperation of the various State marketing bureaus, the railroads, the trucking companies, the air lines and other agencies.

The name Log Cabin Products could become as popular as any other trade name in the country by the intelligent use of advertising, and business could readily be secured from customers regardless of color. With the exception of one or two instances I do not recall that this has ever been done by any of our farmers, and this has not been due to any obstacles placed in their way by white people. Indeed, Mr. Hubert assured me the last time I discussed the matter with him that his group is able to sell all the eggs they can produce right in their own State. All that is necessary is for the Negro farm group or cooperative to meet accepted standards of production, grading, packaging and marketing.

* * *

WONDERFUL VIRGINIA ham is produced by many Negro farmers in that State and almost every colored family in the cities and towns of the country eat Virginia ham. Thousands of these families are able to order these hams by mail or express and undoubtedly would do so if Virginia farmers had an efficiently operated cooperative marketing enterprise able to supply the demand. Such orders from Negro restaurants alone would represent a tremendous sale, to say nothing about our colleges, "Y" cafes and churches.

Turkeys are now being sent by express from New England and from Idaho, and certainly could be sent from Negro cooperatives in the Carolinas and Georgia. Similarly there ought to be a good market in the cities for small bags and baskets of citrus fruit from Florida, raised and marketed by any association of Negro fruit growers, of whom there are scores.

The imagination is staggered by the possibilities. Properly advertised in popular nationally circulated publications, there would be as many white customers as colored, perhaps more. Who cares who produces a smoked ham if it is up to standard?

* * *

HATS, ZOOT PANTS, dresses, transformations, shoes, cameras, watches, rings, heating irons, phonograph records, liquor, oil stoves and other products are advertised in our weekly newspapers all of the time and the mail orders must keep rolling in because the companies continue to advertise. Why not hams, bacon, fruit, molasses, honey, turkeys and peaches? I think the consumers are ready to buy whenever the producers are ready to supply.

A few enlightened and far-sighted men like Benjamin Hubert cannot do all of the necessary promotional work. What is needed is an organization that will popularize this idea in all of the Southern farm areas and show the farmers how they can sell much more of their products for more money than they have ever dreamed.

The NAACP immediately comes to mind since it has over 1,100 branches throughout the country and greater prestige than any other organization among us. Unfortunately mundane matters of this kind are far beyond the understanding and interest of the NAACP leaders who are completely concerned with abstract rights for Negroes which most white people do not enjoy.

They will sponsor a benefit performance of "Our Lan'," a Broadway play dealing with the problems of Negro farmers in Georgia during Reconstruction, but do nothing to assist Negro farmers in Georgia today who own over 10,000 farms. Obviously a man like Benjamin F. Hubert could never hope to get the Spingarn Medal—unless white folks first praised him to the skies!

Name Dixie Farm Contest Winners

Chicago, Ill.

MARION, Ark.—County winners in the Live-at-Home competition were announced this week by the Negro Extension Agents. Clinton and Willie B. Gordon, who operate a 45-acre farm two and one-half miles southeast of Earle on the Towns Farm were first place winners in the land-owner division.

They have carried out a diversified farming program, according to extension recommendation, and have grown all of their food and feed at home. Clinton produced 350 bushels of corn—an average of 49 bushels per acre, followed by vetch. He was selected as one of the Hybrid Corn Demonstrators in the state and won third place. He sowed the following small grains: oats, wheat, vetch and Austrian winter peas. Sat. 11-15-47

The family meat supply will be amply filled as Clinton has 15 hogs and plans to kill about 300 pounds of meat for the family, the rest, he plans to sell.

FHA Borrowers Dominate Live At Home Winners

Atlanta, Ga. World

1b Thu. Fri. 12-12-47

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—Farmers Home Administration borrowers, both Negro and white, made a virtual clean sweep of the prizes in their respective divisions recently in the first annual Arkansas Live-at-Home and Balanced Farming Competition sponsored by the Arkansas Press Association.

First place in the Negro land-owner division was awarded to Horace Gray, 50, head of a family of seven, whose 60-acre farm near Luxora netted, last year, $13,822. Gray and other Negro winners were presented cash awards at a luncheon meeting at Arkansas Baptist College. Fri. 12-12-47

With 75 of his 80 acres under cultivation Horace Gray had gross receipts totaling $17,922 from 50 acres of cotton, 14 each of corn and beans, five acres of alfalfa, six acres in pasture and two acres in garden and truck. A former sharecropper who bought his farm with a 40-year government loan and paid it off 36 years ahead of schedule, Gray operates his farm with the regular help of the members of the family all of whom are on the farm payroll. Total receipts last year were $17,922 while the family and farm expenses were on $4,039.

1b Thurs.

Second Place

Second prize winner in the land-owner division was Dave Evans, 48, of Emmett who farmed 52 acres, while third prize went to Clint Gordon, 32, a Farmers Home borrower who farmed 54 acres near Earle. Gordon and his family won the Arkansas "Farm Family of the Year" Contest sponsored by the Farmers Home Administration last spring. Selection was determined by managerial ability, farm and home improvement, soil conservation, increases in net income and retirement of indebtedness on the farm. Fourth place went to Toy Bomar of Greenbriar.

Honorable mention in the land owner division, all of whom are Farmers Home borrowers, are as follows:

Warren Wise of Nevada County; B. J. Parker, Arkansas County; Manley Rice, Miller County; W. A. Spears, Hempstead County; L. C. Barley, Bradley County; Earlie Weightman, Lincoln County; Clarence Ashford, Cross County.

First place winner in the statewide tenant division was awarded to William Hoskins, 51, of Driver, Arkansas, who showed a net profit of $11,243 from 200 acres all of which are in cultivation. His yield from 42 acres of cotton alone and the seed amounted to $10,070. Total receipts from the 200 acres were $15,915 with expenses listed as $4,172. World Atlanta, Ga. Unity

Second and third place winners respectively were also captured by Farmers Home Administration borrowers. They were Willie Stephens, 53, who cleared $3,006 on 23 acres near Marion and Frank Williams, 47, of Altheimer, who made $4,051 off 59 acres. Honorable mention in this division went to Sam Price of Montrose. Fri. 12-12-47

Certificates were also presented to 30 county winners in the land-owner division and 25 county winners in the tenant division.

Editorial notice was taken of Horace Gray's achievement by both the Arkansas Democrat and the Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock dailies. World

Under the heading "Negro Farmer Makes Fine Record" The Democrat for November 14 said in its editorial: Atlanta, Ga

"A fine record was hung up by the first place winner, Horace Gray, in the Live-at-Home Contest for Negro farmers in the State this year sponsored by the Arkansas Press Association. Fri.

"The Gray family has gross receipts of $17,921 from their 80-acre farm near Luxora. Their expenses, mostly for farm equipment, come to $3,039, leaving them $13,822 in the clear on the year's work.

"As further proof of their system, the Grays bought their farm on a 40-year Farm Security (now Farmers Home) loan—and paid for it in four years. It has most of the modern conveniences.

"All of the family work and is paid on a weekly basis. This is a feature that many farmers might adopt, to the greater satisfaction of the young folks wtih farm life.

Maryland Non-White Farm Owners Show 5-Year Increase

WASHINGTON.—(ANP) — Between April 1, 1940, and Jan. 1, 1945, nonwhite operators of farms in the state of Maryland increased from 4,051 to 4,218, or 4.1 percent, according to a report released here by the U. S. Department of Commerce's bureau of the census last Tuesday.

Owner-farmers accounted for 95 percent of the increase in the total number of farms. During the period 1940-45, owner farms rose from 2,271 to 2,429, or 158: change in manager-operated farms accounted for an increase of 19 farms, while tenant farmers dropped by a total of 10, from 1,758 to 1,148.

Not only does this increase represent the first upturn in the number of non-white operated farms in the state in 20 years, but it also occurred during the war when there was an exceptionally high demand for agricultural workers. The demand for agricultural products and favorable changes in farm income are held to be causes for the rise in owner farms and the slight decrease in tenant farmers.

Earns $30,000 a Year

Thrift, Hard Work On Tobacco Farm Pay Big Dividends

WASHINGTON—How Clyde Jones, Maryland tobacco farmer, expanded his operations from a horse, a cow and twenty-five acres to a $30,000-a-year farming and trucking business in eighteen years is a story of sound planning, thrift and hard work, says District Extension Agent Martin G. Bailey.

In 1926, Mr. Jones was married and sharecropping twenty acres in Southern Maryland with his father, says District Agent Bailey, but he wasn't getting ahead. So, he decided to move to Washington, D. C., and try to find a job—any kind of a job—and save up money to start buying a farm of his own. In the Capital City he first took a job as a hotel porter and later as a truck driver for a hauling firm.

DOWN PAYMENT

District Agent Bailey says that by 1929, Mr. and Mrs. Jones had saved enough for the down payment on twenty-five acres they had had their eyes on near Prince Frederick, Md. With a horse, a cow and a little operating capital, the Joneses began raising tobacco and corn on part of their acres, while they built up the others for increased yields.

In addition to helping her husband with the tobacco crop, Mrs. Jones also helped milk the cow, tend their garden and raise a few chickens. This home-grown food supply kept them out of the grocery store, except on rare occasions. As a result, the $900 they received for their tobacco was all theirs. With part of it they finished paying for their farm and made a few repairs on their home; the rest they put aside in a modest savings account.

SOUND MANAGEMENT

By following sound soil conservation and farm management practices, the Joneses inched ahead year by year.

In 1936, Farmer Jones bought a small truck and began hauling tobacco to Baltimore at $18 a load. Three years later he had two trucks on the road and the nest egg he and his wife had been saving was large enough for a new $7,000 home with electric lights and running water, supplied by a gasoline motor they installed in a shed near the house.

The next year, Jones bought a bus and put in his bid for a school route.

ADD 150 ACRES

Four years ago, the Joneses added 150 acres to their twenty-five, and got two tenant families to help them with their forty acres of tobacco.

Today, his tobacco yield averages over 30,000 pounds annually. This grosses him and his tenants about $12,000. From his school bus and two trucks—one of them a five-ton, $8,500 trailer truck—he grosses almost $20,000 a year. The Joneses finance their farming operations and the purchase of farming equipment through their Production Credit Association.

Growing Mechanization of Farms Held Threat

Afro-American
1-18-47 Sat.
Baltimore, Md.

Analyst Sees 600,000 Families Driven From South's Soil in Next 3 Years

WASHINGTON — (NNPA) — By the end of 1950, some 600,000 sharecropper and tenant families will have been pushed off their farms by mechanization of the farming industry, Dr. Arthur F. Raper, social science analyst of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, said last Wednesday.

Although the number of non-white farm owners in the South increased 7% and the number of such sharecroppers decreased more than 3% between 1940 and 1945, the outlook for farmers is not too bright, he declared.

Figures released by the Census Bureau tend to indicate that despite the increase in farm ownership, thousands of colored farmers have already been forced off their farms by mechanization in the past five years, the analyst disclosed.

Tractors Replace Men

Tractors are spearheading the drive for wide-scale mechanization of the South, he pointed out, adding that closely behind the tractor are the mechanical cotton chopper and the cotton picker, which, combined, save in labor, $24.82 per bale.

1-18-47 Sat.

The Agriculture Department estimates that there are now 357,000 tractors in the South and that by 1950 there will be a million.

Because non-white farmers have small holdings and cannot afford to purchase tractors, they will be forced to the wall by the thousands, as will the farm laborers, whom the machines will make surplus.

Will Abandon Farms

Questioned as to what will happen to such displaced families, Dr. Raper said many of the farmers would drop to the status of day laborers, while others would leave farm life completely.

Dr. Raper would not hazard a prediction as to when, or in what, he felt the upheaval in the South might end.

RALPH McGILL

1b

The Constitution

If You Listen

Atlanta Ga.

You Can Hear---

Aug. 1-28-47

All over the nation, the cities still are crowded. You can hear talk:

"Well, I thought when the war was over, you could get into a hotel . . . my dear, you still have to line up to get into that restaurant—can you imagine? . . . and do you think I could find an apartment the whole three months I was there? . . . where are the people coming from? . . . why don't they go back where they came from? . . . isn't there any place where there is any room? . . ."

(If you listen closely, you can hear the machine . . . it is clanking across the land, rumbling, snorting, pulling plows, combines, harrows, running wood saws, threshing the wheat, shelling the corn, pumping water, running the grist mill . . . the machine is loose and, sleek and smelling of paint and oil, more and more of them are coming out of the factories and moving out on the land . . . listen.)

22 Men This fellow stood there by his field and he said, musing: "You see that man on the tractor pulling that big combine? Well, I remember when it took 22 men and seven boys to do that job in that same field. Now this one man does it. Where are the 21 men and the seven boys gone? I'll tell you. They are gone to town. That's where. Gone to town. And they don't know a damn thing to do when they get there. They will take those plain farm hands and try to work at machines or looms or waiting in restaurants or God knows what. That's where they are. In town." He spat over the fence. "Yes, by the Lord Harry, in town. And more on the way."

This farm tenant on a rented farm stood there looking across the fence at the tractor pulling the double shovel plow.

"Man," he said, resting against his plow handles and letting his rope lines hang slack while the mule picked up a mouthful of grass and chewed it thoughtfully, the saliva running out green on the ends of the bit. "Man," he said, "look at that thing go. That's what I call plowing."

Listen (If he had listened, he would have heard the machine coming his way, a-fixin' to plow under him and his mule; a-fixin' to plow all the land with tractors pulling a dozen plows and two harrows; a-fixin' to put an end to share-cropping as the South has known it since the desperate economy adjusted itself after the War Between the States; a-fixin' to make thousands of tenants, especially the ones who had grown shiftless and sort of no-account from generations of being bred that way, unnecessary to the land. But he was lost in admiration of the shining thing which stank of burning oil and gasoline, and he heard only it—hearing not at all the chariot that was swinging low for him as a dying economic unit. He was being marked and tagged, "For the city," but he didn't know it. But the mechanical loader was on its way to scoop him up with thousands of others and dump him "in town.")

Jue. 1-28-47

Parts All through the cotton South, men were uncrating shining new parts and putting them together. Men worked in warehouses with screwdriver and wrench and with cranes to put together the weird cotton-picking machines . . . to set up the flame-thrower weed killer, the spray that spewed out a fog of chemical that settled on the leaves and made them wither and fall, letting the sun ripen the bolls all at the same time . . .

Watching them, you thought of hands—millions of hands, black hands and white hands, old hands and young hands, feminine hands that never knew nail polish or manicure, feminine hands with hard, work calluses on them; male hands with the broken nails, and scarred, work-hardened palms. You thought of hands, looking at the machines. You thought, too, of backs, bent and aching with picking cotton, of the long rows with men and women and boys and girls in them picking the soft, fluffy cotton from the boll . . . you thought of the long rows of tenant houses on the Delta plantations . . .

(They are on their way to town, the owners of the hands. The machine is coming. It moves slowly down the rows, its snouts sucking the cotton out of the bolls, blowing air on it to clean it, moving it back and packing it down—picking more in a day than hundreds of those hands, black and white, young and old, can pick. The people will have to stand back when the machine comes—and it is here, with more coming—and then they will turn their faces away and start moving toward town. They, the cotton hands, are beginning to hear the machine, and they are worried.)

But not many are. They stand in the fields, not comprehending what is happening.

Talk And in the cities, only the liberal leftists talk about the necessity of getting people who ought to be on the land fixed on it as a land owner with a co-operative arrangement with other small farmers so he can exist and survive. Only the professors and the theorists and the Government cranks talk about switching to poultry or hogs or cattle in a co-operative manner so the little cotton farmer can make it before the flight from cotton leaves him there with his mule and hoe and nothing to do but go to town.

And the very worst cranks of all, of course, are those who ask what will happen as the machine takes more and more people off the land and sends them in to crowd the cities more and more with little skills and low wages for unskilled work, and hunger as great as anyone else's—what will happen if a depression comes and the cities are filled with thousands of these, and the smart, ruthless political operators begin to say, "Boys, the big bugs are trying to give you a sugar tit. Don't you take it. You deserve all you need. You listen to me . . ."

Only cranks talk about that.

(But, if you listen, you can hear the machines.)

Mechanization Of Farm

Daily Wire 1b

(From The Christian Advocate)

It is estimated that within the next ten years mechanization of southern farms will cancel the jobs of from 1,000,000 to 5,000,000 farm hands. The tractor, the cotton picker, the cane cutter and other mechanical devices have already begun their work, each mechanical unit taking the place of many workers. Everybody now knows of this trend. In the towns and cities the rural sections the machines can be seen at work. In the towns and cities the rural people who have migrated there are in evidence.

In addition to this, the magazines and papers are full of news and prophecies concerning the situation. A question now to be studied is, What does it all mean to the church? Has the church any responsibility in this movement? Can the church do anything worth while in regard to it? Such questions are now forced upon the church.

Daily World

They cannot be answered off-hand and categorically. The church faces the need of study of the movement as it may touch the religious life of the people. It does not need a cloistered gathering of statistics or pious resolving, while the revolution goes on. If there is a responsibility on the church, there will need to be a doing and a studying at the same time. Atlanta, Georgia

The Negro church is particularly caught in this revolution because many of the displaced farm laborers are Negroes, and many of them who remain are Negroes. There is no doubt that it means a revolution in the life of the race. It touches the North ad West where many of the displaced persons will go. It touches the southern cities where many others will go. And it touches the rural South where many laborers will remain. Sat- 4-5-47

Is the Negro church alert to this oncoming revolution? There is in it a magnificent opportunity for the Negro church, especially for the denominations that are wide-awake. For those that sleep there is only gradual death. This economic revolution must work out into the religious life of the race. Can the church lead it?

The New 'Negro Problem'

Negro slavery survived in the Southern states longer than in the Northern and Western states because Southern crops, cotton, rice, tobacco, sugar cane, required hand labor, great in numbers, in contrast with the production of wheat, corn, other grains, which required little.

To this time, cotton, tobacco and cane have given employment to negroes, but mechanized agriculture in the South has arrived. If the displacement of farm laborers by it be the half that is predicted, there is another, a new, "negro problem".

It is the problem that can be solved for negroes only by themselves. If some millions of negro farm laborers are to lose their employment, what will they do with themselves? The question is for them to answer. The independent small farmer can live

There are negro farm owners who are skilled and reliable. They have credit in the bank. They are too few. 1b

Negro farm laborers of the South will have to prove themselves competent, skilled, reliable, responsible, measuring to what is required of white people, or they will get out of the South to be workers of the lower grades in Northern cities. Their problem is before them. Sat. 1-18-47

Mechanizing Farms Movement Growing Throughout Alabama

Demand For Tractors And Equipment Far Exceeds Available Supply

BY L. O. BRACKEEN

AUBURN, Ala., April 19—How much does tractor and workstock farmers. In power cost Alabama farmers in the facts presented in The Review, producing crops and livestock? Which is the most economical farm power for farmers of the state to use? Sun. 4-20-47

The answers to these questions were found in a survey conducted jointly by the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Service of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute and printed in bulletin No. 260 entitled "Farm Power and Equipment Costs in North Alabama," by Ben T. Lanham, associate agricultural economist.

Highlights of the survey also are being used in The Auburn Economic Review for distribution to bankers, business men and farmers. In

comfortably in the South. He can raise numerous crops, poultry and livestock. When we say "livestock", we mean a sow and a litter of pigs, a cow and a calf. There will be room and demand for resourceful to employ a sponsible foremen, herdsmen, machinists, engineers and caretakers of cotton-picking and cotton-chopping machines.

Will the employer having $5,000 or $50,000 invested in highly bred cattle employ a negro to keep watch and ward over them for a month? To this time, negro foremen are seldom employed in Southern farms. Often they are assistants to white farmers. The question is for them to answer.

The independent small farmer can live farm foremen, and they are faithful and disposition is to trust them not too far.

John Lilies, extension economist, says that "mechanization of Alabama farms is taking place at a rapid rate and the demand for tractors and tractor operated equipment continues to exceed the supply.

"Many farmers, however, have purchased tractors without much factual information on operating costs either absolutely or in comparison with mule or horse power," he adds.

In explaining how the survey was conducted, Mr. Lilies reports that the information was obtained on 112 farms operated with tractor power only; on 197 farms operated with both tractor and workstock powers, and on 170 farms operated with workstock power only.

* * *

CASH COSTS FOR operating tractors a 10-hour day averaged 29 cents an hour for small tractors; 39 cents for medium tractors, and 44 cents for large tractors. The overhead costs, which include depreciation, interest, taxes, etc., amounted to 15 cents an hour for small tractors; 16 cents for medium tractors, and 17 cents for large tractors. Thus, the total cost an hour of operation, excluding the value of the labor of the tractor driver, amounted to 44 cents for small tractors; 54 cents for medium tractors, and 62 cents for large tractors.

Tractor costs were higher on farms where both tractors and workstock were used than on farms operated with tractors only. This difference was due mainly to the fact that tractors on farms where workstock were also used were not operated as many days as on those farms using tractor power alone.

Operating costs of tractors a 10-hour day depend, not only upon the size of the tractor and the type of work done, but also on the number of days used during the year. The 54 tractors which were used an average of less than 40 days a year had an average cost of 95 cents an hour. The 53 tractors used 120 days and over were operated at a cost of 37 cents an hour.

ON THOSE FARMS using workstock only the cost a head a 10-hour day was $3.06 or 31 cents an hour. On those farms using a combination of workstock and tractors the workstock cost averaged $4.64 a day or 64 cents an hour. Farmers who used workstock only reported approximately 60 per cent greater use of workstock than operators who used both workstock and tractors on their farms.

Farmers are often slow in disposing of their workstock until they are sure they can handle all their farming operations with tractor power. Then, too, some farmers have not made the necessary adjustments in their cropping systems to enable them to dispose of all their workstock.

As in the case of tractors, workstock costs an hour of use decreased as the number of hours worked increased. On farms where workstock were used less than 500 hours annually the cost an hour of use amounted to $1.04. On farms where workstock were used 1,100 hours or more the costs were only 17 cents an hour.

IN SUMMARY, the bulletin reveals that larger implements usually accomplish more work in a given amount of time, that costs an acre are lower, and that costs an hour are usually higher than when most effective means of lowering costs an acre ad an hour is to increase the amount of annual use of tractors, workstock, and the machinery for which they furnish the power. Maximum savings through mechanization can be realized only when all available equipment is used at on near capacity.

The study further revealed that, on the average, each tractor in North Alabama has replaced 4.5 head of workstock. If the tractors had been used to the maximum, they would have replaced approximately six head of workstock. Thus, the average tractor in North Alabama in 1945 was used at three-fourths of its capacity.

Requests for this bulletin should be addressed to the Alabama Experiment Station, Auburn.

FARM CHANGES IN THE SOUTH

For several years a revolution in agriculture has been under way in the Southern States. Its economic and social implications have profound meaning not only for a region but for the nation as a whole. The change began in the years before the war and picked up momentum during the emergency when cotton, tobacco and foodstuffs were urgently needed. Machines are replacing mules, and farm economists estimate that in the next ten years mechanized power will eliminate the farm jobs of from one to five million Southern workers. The figure set by the United States Bureau of Agriculture Economics is 1,600,000.

Within recent months the press has carried news of the success of mechanical cotton-pickers. The new plant of the International Harvester Company in Memphis will be turning out these machines in a year or two at a rate of 1,500 annually. Indications are that mechanical peanut-diggers will soon be in large-scale operation; combines for soy beans, grain sorghums, wheat and oats will be used as soon as available. The mechanical corn-picker will become more and more important as the South's expanding livestock industry makes further gains. Two-row tobacco planters are already in widespread use, with only the actual dropping of the plants remaining as a manual operation. Airplanes are widely employed to spread insecticides and poisons.

Regionally this revolution in farm power means more and more workers available for the South's growing industrial economy. It may also mean that an increasing number of Negroes will migrate to Northern States for opportunities for work. Nationally it means that mechanized power will produce larger crops of fibers and foods in the Southern States. It is a part of the general mechanization of the nation's agriculture that is now in progress.

The Negroes' Problem

The warnings of The News and Courier to negroes, those who think, that mechanized farming threatens hundreds of thousands of farm laborers with loss of employment have been repeated. They have been printed in its columns time and again. In an editorial the New York Times is extending this warning.

If the negroes are to live in the South, they must develop a sense of responsibility. Not all white men have it, but the owner of a herd of 50 Guernseys, if he must choose between two men for a foreman and knows nothing of either beyond that one has a white skin and the other a brown or black skin, will choose the white skin. The Northern white man coming to the South and engaging in the livestock industry is as sure to make this choice as is the Southern white man.

If a planter invest $25,000 in farm machinery and in August go with his family on vacation, will he leave the machines in the care of a white man or a negro?

This necessary sense of responsibility negroes can develop. Many of them have it. In an experience of years we have sometimes had dealings with negro builders and contractors. They have been satisfactory. Thousands of negroes are skilled artisans.

Nevertheless, it is simple truth that employers as a rule believe that white persons are more reliable as foremen and caretakers than negroes are. This prevailing belief is for negroes to overcome. They will require time.

Political office-holding will not convert Southern negroes into landed proprietors and executives. Nor will voting. "Politics" has come to be in South Carolina a large industry, and the office-holders are making gains from it. The masses of the white people are not profiting from it. They have increasing losses from it. The mass of the negro population would profit less from office-holding by negro haranguers than white people profit from their political heroes and prophets.

White people of good heart in the South will help their negro fellow citizens to develop the sense of personal responsibility. The Southern negroes will prove possession of it, or to the Harlems they will go. In the Harlems is approach to savagery.

Farm Mechanization Poses Tough Problem for South

Developments in the mechanization of farming operations in the South are proceeding at such a rapid rate and have such serious implications as to suggest the urgent need of study aimed at meeting the problems accompanying this revolution.

Latest among the many far-reaching changes is that in the realm of forestry. Heretofore the planting of trees has been a rather slow and laborious job. Now a machine has been perfected and put into use that does the work of many men. It makes possible the planting of millions of trees where thousands were planted before.

What this means to the economy of the South is easily understood. For one vitally important thing, the machine will ease the job of keeping a few paces ahead of the cutters who supply the ever-increasing demands of the growing number of paper and pulp mills. The long-range view of this development must, therefore, be favorable. Inevitably, of course, the workers who heretofore have been engaged in the forests—at least most of them—must find employment elsewhere.

Increasing numbers of machines also have come into use in the planting, cultivation and harvesting of cotton, tobacco and foodstuffs. They are replacing mules and men, and economists predict that within the next 10 years from one to five million farm jobs will be eliminated by mechanized power.

By way of emphasizing the impact of the trend toward mechanization, it is reported that the International Harvester Company soon will be building mechanical cotton pickers in its Memphis plant at the rate of 1,500 annually. Machines to dig peanuts, and to plant other crops are scheduled for early arrival on the farm to take their place alongside two-row tobacco planters.

As the mechanization grows increasing numbers of farm workers will be thrown out of jobs, and difficulties will become more pressing upon individual farmers who try to compete with the machines. Thus will be created a problem the South must deal with—a problem of wide ramifications, and demanding the best talents the South possesses for solution.

Mechanical Cotton Picking Poses Problems

A TWO-DAY conference of some 250 delegates sponsored by the National Cotton Council in Stoneville, Miss., discussed the momentous question of mechanized cotton production, an innovation which, it is estimated, would change the lives of 1,000,000 southern cotton pickers.

A press association release reported cotton pickers poses a question of importance to southerners who should be pursued to develop other that the conference had high on its means of livelihood for those they dis-agenda the matter of mass unemploy- nomy of the ment which can be expected if the in- which must dustry is totally mechanized. place with machines. More industries in the South may be cal methods in the North Carolina who must be absorbed in other coastol area that it takes 118 hours to tries or become pawns on the pick by hand. In the Mississippi Del- income. ta 27.6 hours by mechanical means Industrial leaders of the South could do the work of 141.1 hours by keep aware of the human que manual method. they plan for greater pro-

The specter of 1,000,000 unemployed through the replacement of men by ma- to come the answer to the question but it offers proportionally a solution only if industry is willing ase thousands to offer employment regardless of any other indus- considerations of race or other southern the public "conventions."

1b 1947

WHITE MAN'S VIEWS

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

BY TED LE BERTHON

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editors.)

Sat. 1-25-47

PROBABLY most of us will be under the daisies—referring, of course to our corruptible part—before field hands disappear. But they'll begin disappearing soon with the imminent and long inevitable mechanization of the harvesting of the South's three staple crops: cotton, sugar, rice. And any chump—including this writer—doesn't have to be very bright to anticipate the industrialization of every nook and cranny of our whirling globe as the foremost phenomenon of the new imperialism.

Mr. Le Berthon

Also it's a cinch this industrialization will be greatly accelerated beyond any ratio of scientific progress in the past. It's fashionable to suspect there has been more such progress in the past five years than in the 5000 years preceding. Be that as it may, the modern young Negro is vividly aware of the possibilities of rapid transformation in the next few years.

* * *

HERE'S SOMETHING prophetic. At National Schools in Los Angeles—which for forty-one years has been one of the Nation's leading technical trade training institutions—some 200 Negroes are numbered among this year's 1200 resident students. That means one in six. They have come from all over the United States. As Negroes are one-tenth of the Nation's population, these students far exceed the racial ratio. All are taking various courses in electronics and mechanics, under the GI Bill of Rights. They certainly see "the shape of things to come."

National Schools has resident institutions in four Latin-American Nations, and has more than 10,000 students enrolled in its extension courses. How many of this total are Negroes is not known, as an applican'ts race is never known. It does not matter. But it is certain that applicants at the offices in Havana, Caracas, Bogota, Lima, Santiago and Rio—there are a dozen offices in Latin-American cities in addition to the four schools—will have much Negro blood in their veins.

* * *

WHEN CENTRAL and South American highways and dams and bridges and railroads spring up, along with land reclamation, irrigation, etc., Negroes are going to be holding other than just the unskilled, rough-and-tumble jobs. Call it imperialism, or use the more soothing term "good neighborliness"—there will be great changes made. Sat. 1-25-47

Lou Mandelbaum National Schools' educational director, is finding that more and more industrialists in and about Los Angeles are becoming unconcerned as to the race or color of the school's graduates placed with them. This has required some education of them by Mandelbaum, who first broke the ice in pre-war years by cunningly placing those Negro students first whose work would be of such a superior order that an employer's prejudices were overcome with a jolt.

* * *

TO THE FAMILIAR objection that white workers might refuse to work alongside a Negro or Negroes, Mandelbaum points out that National Schools' Negro students and white students have been studying and working together with no trouble for forty-one years.

Any time a qualified Negro is sent by National Schools to a prospective employer, and is not hired, Mandelbaum phones that employer and asks the reason. In the majority of cases, the employer reconsiders and hires the Negro worker. For Mandelbaum has given him a long list of firms which have accepted Negro graduates of National Schools and have found them every bit as competent as whites.

Since it was founded by Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Rosenkranz and their son, L. J. Rosenkranz, in 1905, National Schools has trained Negro, white, Mexican and Oriental students side by side. Its philosophy of integration is not something new. Its placement department fought for fair employment practices years before anyone ever dreamed of an FEPC.

* * *

ALL STUDENTS are taught the values of democratic living in brochures by J. A. Rosenkranz that are a series of written lesson-discussions. Rosenkranz holds that love of neighbor must start with the fellow at the work bench and the family next door in order to take root. He believes one should assist the starving, the desolate and the oppressed of Europe, Asia, Africa and other far-off places, but one should first see that brotherhood exists in one's shop, in one's neighborhood, in one's city, in one's Nation. Good race relations should be promoted at home and abroad but at home first.

Sat. 1-25-47

NATIONAL SCHOOLS has never suffered from its positive stand. It has flourished. It has made thousands of employers interracial-minded. It has proved to them that Negro workers are as competent as any other when given equal training, and that their presence does not cause friction. This sort of education lights the way to the future. Those who foster it achieve a satisfaction impossible of attainment by the prejudiced. The promotion of good will is its own reward.

Growth In Mechanization

From The Cotton Trade Journal (Memphis, Tenn.)

Southern Weekly

That there will be a material growth in farm mechanization this coming cotton season is a certainty and probably it is equally certain that the growth will be greater the following cotton season. This is bound to have an indirect bearing on the production of cotton. 3-8-47 Dallas, Texas

The research departments of the large harvester machine companies, after a few seasons of trial and experiment, are bound to produce great improvements upon present models, such as those which, on many cotton farms, will be used this season for the first time.

What is ahead for the South in this agricultural revolution is causing both hopes and fears among the farming population; hope in heavier production at lower costs and fear that displacement of labor may have unfavorable results. It seems almost certain that a great deal of the tenant labor of the cotton belt will gradually be eliminated. Many a country store will suffer from this but it long has been realized that farm tenant labor constitutes an evil in itself. A great deal is being said about the chance that large cotton plantations will benefit most through new machinery while the smaller plantations and the average farms will probably suffer. This point concerning small growers is now being disputed through the growth of a brand new kind of business, namely, farm contracting. Since the new farm machinery designed for work on cotton lands has come on the market, firms have been organized to do the plowing, grading, ditching and other work for farmers who are not able to buy their own machinery or who feel that their acreages do not warrant the expenditures of the money involved. This phase of the new agriculture must be watched by the cotton trade for it already is being conducted on a surprisingly large scale and promises startling growth for it seems to be particularly fitted to war veterans with a liking for agriculture who have the money with which to buy machinery or who are in a favorable position to command loans for its purchase. Georgia seems to lead in this new business. Sat. 3-8-47

The hope among all right thinking people is that mechanization will vastly improve the living conditions of millions of agricultural workers and if such hopes are not realized it can hardly be said, a few years from now, that machine production of crops has been a success.

Southern Farm Leaders Begin Work To Speed Mechanization

Montgomery Advertiser

GREENVILLE, MISS., Aug. 19.—(AP)—Southern agricultural leaders began work today on a series of projects to speed mechanization of cotton production as the first mechanization conference sponsored by the National Cotton Council came to an end. 8-20-47 Montgomery, Ala.

At the suggestion of P. H. Noland, president of B. F. Avery and Sons, the conference voted to meet annually to discuss progress and problems of cotton mechanization and to use information gained at this first session as a basis for specific development projects during the next year.

Just what those projects will be was not determined, but the conference had heard calls for farm machinery that would allow mechanization of a diversified agriculture in the South, for equipment which would allow the small farmer to mechanize. for better harvesting and ginning equipment, and for the development of types of cotton which would lend themselves easily to mechanized harvesting.

The need for equipment for mechanization of a diversified agriculture was cited by W. A. Roberts, president of the Farm Equipment Institute. It was backed by Dr. Louis E. Hawkins, vice-director of the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, who said there is a need for integrated machinery that can be used not only for growing cotton but for other crops as well.

John L. McCaffrey, president of a farm machinery company, told the conference that mechanization of cotton must be effected not only on big plantations but on the small farms which raise 14 per cent of America's staple. Mont 8-21-47

Small tractors, costing only $875 with plow, planter, cultivator and mower, are now on the market, he said, allowing the little man to buy equipment for his farm at the cost of two mules, their harness and the tools they would move. Wed. 8-20-47

Today's session of the conference, like yesterday, was marked with repeated statements that the South need not fear cotton mechanization, that it would bring prosperity and not economic chaos resulting from displacement of workers. Conference members heard E. B. White, assistant to the secretary of agriculture, say the federal government is ready to aid cotton mechanization by making credit available for farmers who need to buy equipment.

And they heard members of the farm machinery industry say the industry is well along with plans to increase production so much equipment may be available not only to farmers of this country, but to those of Brazil Russia and China.

Representatives of that industry and of the U. S. Department of Agriculture pledged themselves to work together to give the cotton farmer both the machinery and the best type of cotton for mechanized production.

Is 'Blessing,' Says Johnston

Montgomery Advertiser

8-25-47 Mont.

Result, Not The Cause, Of Labor Problems, Avows NCC Head

Mechanized agriculture will prove a blessing to farmers of the South instead of a labor problem, according to Oscar Johnston, president of the National Cotton Council and director of the largest cotton farm in the United States.

At an address delivered at the National Cotton Council's conference at Stoneville, Miss., its president called attention to the fears that existed in the past every time an improvement was made in either the production or manufacture of cotton into cloth. Some

excerpts from Mr. Johnston's address on mechanization follow:

we have the record of the world-wide benefits which were achieved by the power-driven spinning machine, the mechanical loom, and all the other important devices which formed the very basis for our great textile

roduction.

"History tells us that with the introduction of each of the power-driven spinning and weaving machines there was at first fear that men would go hungry for lack of employment, but today no one can conceive of such a great employer as the cotton textile industry operating without the benefit of machines.

Competitive Position Bettered

Cotton's competitive position seems certain to be bettered by mechanization, the Council president said. 8-25-47 Mon

Though the battle between cotton and competing fibers does not depend wholly on price and production costs, Mr. Johnston said that price is an important factor.

"Undoubtedly if American cotton is to maintain its dominant position in the markets of the world in competition with cottons produced in other countries, price is and will continue to be, a controlling factor," he asserted.

"The intelligent American cotton producer recognizes the seriousness of the threat to cotton's markets afforded by rayon, paper, wood, jute, foreign grown cottons, and other competitors. The producer recognizes the fact that these competitors are giving cotton trouble in many fields, not because they are better, but because they are cheaper.

Some have contended, he said, that the best manner in which the farmers of the cotton belt can overcome their problem is "by growing something else."

Food Production Rises

"The Cotton Belt has long been considered an unprofitable area for wheat production," he continued, "but in a recent year, Mississippi produced a higher per-acre yield of wheat than any major wheat state. South Carolina and two neighboring cotton states increased their wheat acreage by 130 per cent between 1930 and 1943. The hog population of the cotton states increased from nine million in 1930 to 14 million in 1943. Egg production rose in the same period from 6 billion to 11 billion. Potato acreage almost doubled.

"That the Cotton Belt can 'grow something else' is an established fact. It is likewise an established fact that it is impossible for other sections to turn to cotton production to retaliate against attempts of the Cotton Belt farmer to enter their markets."

1,600,000 Leave in 5 Years

Replying to the contention that mechinazation will result in wholesale population displacements, he said that he was firmly convinced that mechanization is not the cause, but the result of economic change in the area.

"Most, if not all, of the migration of farmers and farm workers which has taken place during the past few years, has resulted from factors other than mechanization itself," Mr. Johnston declared. "All over the South tenant houses now stand vacant on farms where mechanization has not yet achieved considerable development." 8-25-47 Mon.

Mr. Johnston said that Department of Labor figures showed that 1,600,000 workers left the South between 1940 and 1945, with every Southern state except Florida and Virginia losing population to other areas. He also pointed out that many farm workers were drawn into Southern industry.

At present Mr. Johnston said that machines which can be used effectively on the small hill farm have not yet been developed.

"The small hill farmer is important, too," he continued. "A tremendous portion of the nation's cotton production comes from such farms. The average farm's cotton production is only four or five bales a year."

"For those farmers not being able to mechanize, the solution is still relatively simple. They should plant their fertile creek bottoms in cotton and produce it by present methods, relying on quality of lint to offset lack of mechanization. The second bottom should be planted in food and feed crops, and the hillsides given over to timber and pasture.

"Such operators will continue, I believe, to harvest a million and a half bales of cotton yearly, or about 14 per cent of the nation's cotton crop. They will receive cash revenue from cotton as an important 'spare time' crop. Throughout the year they will sell poultry, dairy products, beef cattle or other livestock. These small operators should not be adversely affected by mechanization of such areas as are adapted to machine methods."

Mechanization Armed Vital To South's Cotton Farmers

Montgomery Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala.

By ATTICUS MULLIN

GREENVILLE, MISS., Aug. 19.—Southern cotton farmers must recognize at once the necessity of mechanizing their farms if they are to meet world competition in cotton and, in addition, they must learn how to get the most from their machines.

These two conclusions were arrived at here by experts after inquiry into the cotton farmers' plight in the South as it will appear two years hence. Nearly 1,000 cotton farmers and technicians interested in cotton farming answered the call of the National Cotton Council for a conference here and at the Stoneville experiment station 10 miles east. Wed. 8-20-47

Machinery Shown

Alabama was represented by farm leaders and farmers as well as farmer-legislators who are vitally interested in the cotton situation in addition to farm leaders, farmers, technicians, and agricultural specialists, 24 or more high ranking officers of farm machinery manufacturers were present, and a showing of new and improved farm machinery was made at the Stoneville station of the Mississippi State school. Wed. 8-20-47

Alabamians who were present and listened to the dozen or more addresses from the top men in cotton production and farm machinery production included:

Haygood Paterson, commissioner of agriculture and industries; Walter C. Givhan, president of the Dallas County Farm Bureau, and veteran member of the legislature from Dallas, and successful farm leaders in the legislature; Bruce Henderson, farm leader in the senate; Representative Ira Thompson, of Pike; Representative Neal Robinson, of Lowndes; Representative Bill Molette, of Dallas; Representative Will Garrett, of Monroe; Senator Fuller Kimbrell, of Franklin; Col. Price McLemore, of Montgomery; Representative Bruce Doughty, of Pickens; A. W. Jones, of the marketing service of the Auburn Extension Service; P. O. Davis, director of the extension service; Dr. Smith, of the Auburn experiment station; Dick Goldthwaite, of Montgomery; and others. Wed. 8-20-47

It was brought out in the speeches by cotton leaders, including Oscar Johnston, president of the National Cotton Council, and the head of the largest cotton growing farm in the United States, that the Southern cotton farmers must mechanize, but must not fear over-production or the effects of the labor crisis on the farms when they are mechanized and more than 1,000,000 farm laborers are dispensed with.

In the first place it was brought out that most of the farm laborers in the South are small farm owners. These families and the families of farm tenants are in the higher numercial class. These farm owners and their families, when the small farms are mechanized, will have to turn to other things. In fact they were advised by experts that not only would Southern cotton farming have to become mechanized but other Southern agriculture would have to follow suit. Experts said the farm labor of the South, displaced because of mechanization, would easily be absorbed. One speaker said that most of these misplaced persons would be Negroes and that they could find jobs in the North. "That will relieve us to some extent of the racial problem he said," and will enable the North to understand what we have been up against. Wed. 8-20-47

It was one of the most instructive farm conferences many of us ever attended. Certainly it opened the eyes of farm members of the Alabama legislature who attended. The buildings, grounds and activities of the Stoneville station of the Mississippi experiment service were a revelation. "Why they've spent more money on this one station," said Neal Robinson, of Lowndes, "than Alabama has spent on all of her experimental work."

* * *

The Stoneville station of the Mississippi State experiment service has done more to improve cotton growth than all the other stations in the South, combined. And more money and more brains have been expended on it.

* * *

Farmers of the Alabama legislature were interested in the very latest in mechanical equipment which was demonstrated. There were more vice-presidents of big farm implement firms on hand than members of the legislatures. You could knock one down every time you "swooshed" at a mosquito. Wed. 8-20-47

Neal Robinson, the Lowndes County member of the legislature and big farmer, became interested on the trip just as soon as we entered Mississippi, near Columbus. At that point we entered a prairie section which lasted for more than 50 miles and the argiculture resembled that of Lowndes County. "I feel at home here," said Neal. Wed. 8-20-47

The visit to the big farm operated by Oscar Johnston at Scott, Miss., intrigued many. There are more than 50,000 acres planted to cotton on this farm and it is predicted that the average yield this year will not be much less than 2 bales to the acre. Cotton is doing well although the Delta seems to be hard hit by a drouth as far as other crops are concerned. Corn looked sick bevond recovery.

Farm Mechanization Pushed by Georgia

Atlanta Daily World

ATLANTA—In line with current feminine trends in the cotton South, P. H. Stone, Georgia State Extension supervisor, is intensifying his program of helping colored farmers diversify and mechanize, reports the Georgia State Extension Service.

By conducting farm equipment clinics and by stepping up demonstrations in hybrid corn production, the planting of cover crops, and in the care of livestock and poultry. Stone and his staff are helping colored farmers accelerate the broadening of their cropping program in increasing their farm output. 1-17-47

PROMOTES COUNTY AGENT

To sharpen farmers' awareness of the need for raising more hogs and chickens, the State supervisor has promoted O. S. O'Neal, founder of the Fort Valley Ham and Egg Show, from county agent to Statewide special agent. As a result, county shows will be held all over the State this year.

His goal is to add sufficient agents to bring the farm family case-load down to a maximum of 1,000 families in twenty communities per agent. This, he says, would enable agents to hold demonstrations in each community every month.

1926 when he became supervisor of personnel from fourteen agents in

Afro-Am. Baltimore, Md.

N.C. Governor Acclaims New Farmers of America

1K Sat - 8 - 16 - 47

500 From 17 States Attend 13th Session; Top Award to Youth Who Works Two Farms

GREENSBORO, N.C. — High praise from Gov. R. Gregg Cherry for what they have achieved since their organization here 20 years ago at A. and T. College climaxed the New Farmers of America convention which closed here Aug. 6 with a tour to Durham and Raleigh, where the Governor greeted them.

The farmers' 13th national meeting, held July 30 to Aug. 6, was billed as a "Reconversion Convention," and attracted 500 delegates from 17 Southern States.

Prize Winners

Governor Cherry pointed out that the convention was, "in a way, a birthday celebration (the 30th) of the vocational agricultural program in colored public schools of the State, launched in 1917." He added: "You certainly make a fine exhibit of the worthiness of that program.

Prize winners were: Avery Phifer, 26, of Columbus County, the H. O. Sargent Award, for his outstanding farm work after being out of school for three years. He operates his own farm and his mother's also.

Joseph Reed, Waverly, Va., was adjudged the best contestant in the parliamentary procedure test; and Leroy Chavis, Wise, N.C., was acclaimed the most talented farmer. Sat. 8-16-47

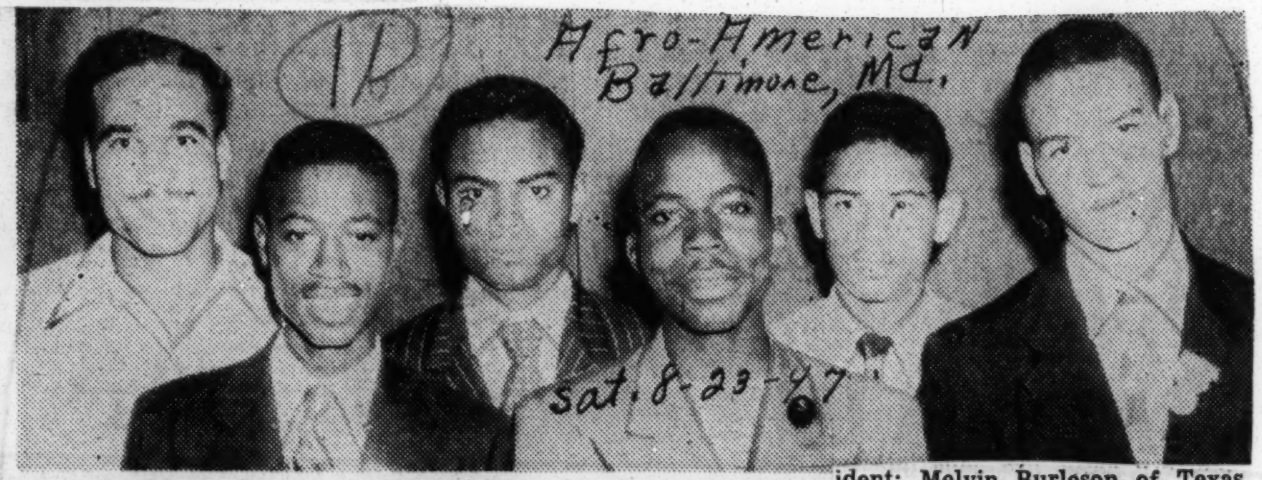
Officers Elected

Other speakers were: Dr. Robert P. Daniel, president, Shaw University; James Bryant, State NFA president, and President F. D. Bluford of A. and T. College who welcomed the delegates; Luther Shipman, past State NFA president; and P. J. Manley who introduced the guests.

Officers elected were: James Bryant, Bricks, N.C., president; Robert Brown Jr., Grambling, La., first vice-president; Lincoln Bobo, South Carolina, second vice-president; Robert Adams, Georgia, third vice-president; Melvin Burleson, Texas, secretary; Walter Cardwell, Tennessee, treasurer; and Glenwood Roane, Virginia, reporter.

Vidalia Negro National Winner

VIDALIA, Ga., Aug. 16.—Orlando Pearson, a pupil at the Dickerson Training School here for negro students, has gained national honors for himself and his school in contests o nnation-wide scope conducted by the New Farmers of America organization, it was learned today from T. R. Maxwell who is agriculture teacher and sponsor for the N. F. A. group in this county. Pearson won the state prize, the national prize and a $100 scholarship in the Rural Electrification contest.

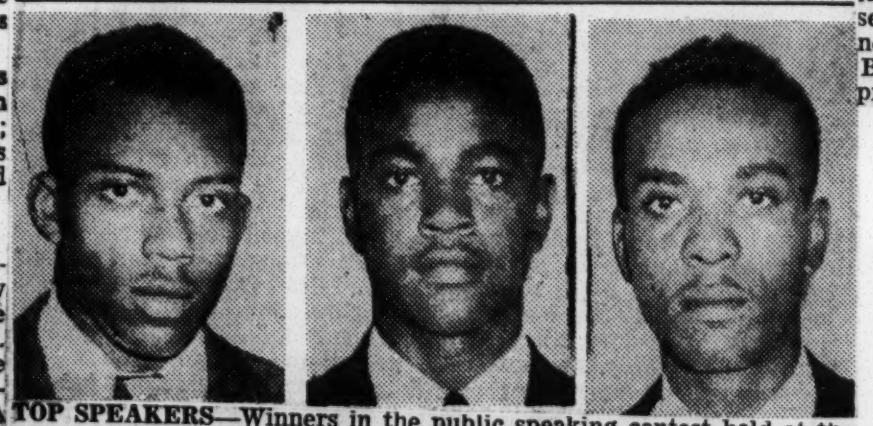


Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

1B

Sat. 8-23-47

NFA OFFICERS—Shown above are the newly elected officers of the New Farmers of America which held its 13th annual national convention at A. and T. College recently. Left to right they are: front, James Bryant of North Carolina, president; Russell Adams of Georgia, third vice-president; Glenwood Roane of Virginia, reporter; rear, Lincoln Bobo of South Carolina, second vice-president; Melvin Burleson of Texas, secretary; Walter Caldwell of Tennessee, treasurer; and Robert Brown of Louisiana, first vice president. Sat. 8-23-47



TOP SPEAKERS—Winners in the public speaking contest held at the 13th annual NFA convention at A. and T. College in Greensboro, N.C., were, from left: Edward Yancey, Clarksville, Va., second place; Willard Dallas, Ada, Okla., first pace; and Harrison Davis, Elkton, Tenn., third place.

1b 1947

North Carolina

Negro Farmer Counts 785 Acres Of Land Earned by Steady Toil

N. C.

Raleigh N. C. News & Observer
February 16, 1947

By KAYS GARY.

Shelby. — James Camp, Negro farmer, stood yesterday on the veranda of his modern, 13-room home near Shelby and looking toward the horizon could barely see the end of his land, the border of his 785-acre farm, marked by a hill half-hidden in the distant haze.

The moment was the culmination of a 50-year-old dream—a dream first conceived in the mind of a grinning, ebony-faced lad, who, in the poverty of his father's share-cropping home, determined to one day own a plantation in the white man's world.

Today, it appears that little seems to be lacking from Jim Camp's earliest, wildest hopes. Days ago the plainly dressed, still-laboring Negro, wrote laboriously on a check a cash payment of $23,000 for the last addition to his estate—226 acres all adjoining his farm.

It Took Toil.

Now, there is the Camp sawmill, the fish pond filled with eight-pound bass, the 300 acres of timberland, the 135 acres which this year produced 160 bales of cotton, the 30 acres of grain, other acres of pasturage, livestock and mechanical farming devices. Still, Jim Camp will be found late in the afternoon building single-handedly a new tenant home on his property, making a total of 23 such houses.

It is all there because a tremendous price was paid in scrimping, saving, doing without, laboring day and night for pennies, buying a scrap of land with the pennies and with the yield, buying another scrap of land. It is there because one Negro boy had the courage to run away from home and oblivious to suffering, had managed to keep his eyes focused on his youth's vision.

It began in the late 1890's when John Mintz, holder of vast lands near Shelby, favored the son of one of his tenants by allowing the moon-faced youngster to ride with him on a saddle-horse as he rode over his farms. It was on these rides that James Camp found his first white friend and the stuff he thought necessary to duplicate his hero's success.

Started By Chopping Wood.

To become one of the largest landowners in Cleveland County, Camp left home at the age of 19 when his father refused to try and buy his own farm and began cutting cord wood at 35 cents per cord. His next important move was to acquire Florence Hardin, educated daughter of a proud family, as his wife. Camp, with only a fourth-grade education, could barely read and writ .

James Camp, successful farmer, lets machinery help.

The two began with a wheelbarrow, three chickens, a mule and buggy, one keen mind, another dogged one and two tireless arms. They lived on greens, molasses and fried fruit which they received free. They bought nothing. Then five years later came the first down payment on a 47-acre tract. Still there were no luxuries, and even some necessities were forgotten. Income went for more land.

The process was repeated for three decades and now Jim Camp with a sigh, smiles easily and declares simply: "It's all in one big, pretty lot where I can see it."

But this is only the beginning. The story would seem thus far to be a tale of Jim Camp's grasping for himself, his wife and son. There seems no possibility for beneficence. Nonetheless, the Camps are an institution.

Help Delinquents.

In the kitchen of the Camp home can be found a 12-year-old boy, who months ago was a juvenile delinquent in Shelby. The Camps took him in, taught him to work, helped him in school, encouraged recreation and now Jim is to the lad what John Mintz was to Jim 50 years ago. The boy is one of dozens who have preceded him and finally left to earn successes on their own.

One hundred yards from the homestead is located the Camp Negro school—so named by the county commissioners because Jim gave the land and the building—because in his own words. "My folks needs help bad—mighty bad."

From the Sunday school classes in the community church can be heard the voice of Florence Camp extolling the virtues of principled living, and from a Parent-Teacher meeting will be heard that same voice with the warning: "Buy a cow before a car."

Others Can Do It.

All this because, man and wife, the Camps believe that any person, white or black, wanting any good thing badly enough, can earn it by sacrifice and determination.

The Camp leadership isn't confined to preaching. The farm is available for teaching, for cooperation with farm authorities in showing neighboring Negroes how to make the mos of the least, how to live at home.

At every annual fair, a Camp exhibit depicts wit.. figures and charts the means by which a black man can truly become the master of his own fate on the farm.

The living example should be enough. Quiet, modest, fearful that white folks might think them "getting too proud," if publicity should congratulate their accomplishment, they reluctantly showed this reporter their home tastefully decorated, equipped with an electric system, modern conveniences, including baths and automatic heat and a cellar stacked from floor to ceiling with canned goods.

Make Their Own.

No meat or flour has been bought by the family in 23 years. It all comes from the farm.

In the maze of outbuildings wander 14 mules, dozens of cattle and added to these will be a purebred Hereford herd.

Inside a nearby shed stands an idle tractor, its engine still hot, for the mechanical monster roams the vast tracts daily doing all types of work, including hauling that isn't done by the two trucks.

Today, Jim Camp would give credit for any measure of success to the inspiration of John Mintz, white man—to the keen but humble support of his wife Florence, and to a crippled man whose interest in struggling sharecroppers helped resurrect Southern agriculture.

Worships Roosevelt.

Jim Camp becomes almost reverent in speaking of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. "He showed us a lot—gave us a lot; he's a man like my folks always need," declared Jim.

James Camp belongs to the soil and for that reason there is no prideful boasting. He's too busy before dawn and after sunset in overalls to give it a thought.

His one son, just returned from service in Italy, is a student in the A. & T. College at Greensboro. His ambition is to own 1,000 acres of land—not his father's—and work to draw his people from ignorance, poverty, fear, foolishness and distrust. For those who know the Camp blood best, no bets are being made against him. He has ridden on the horse with his father. He has listened to his mother. He will buy a cow before he buys a car.

There are those who have said it could not happen in the South—in the middle of a land lashed for its racial intolerance by a liberal society—but the authors of the statements do not know Cleveland County's Jim Camp.

Sparta, Ga., Ishmaelite
March 6, 1947

SOIL CONSERVATION AMONG NEGROES

Negro cooperators of the Piedmont Soil Conservation District are applying for Kudzu to be planted on steep and eroded slopes of their farms. Many are planting Kudzu on very poor and depleted fairly sloping areas of deep sands and bare clays, for increasing soil fertility as well as for soil protection. Kudzu crowns are available to them without cost through soil conservation payments.

Negro farmers who have entered the Soil Conservation Contest on small grains were urged recently by Conservationist McWhorter to secure annual Lespedeza seed now for applying on the small grain during March. He stressed that both practices can be entered in the Contest for separate prizes.

John Youngblood has cleared approximately 8 acres of brushland in preparation for establishing permanent pasture.

Montgomery Advertiser
July 14, 1947

Calhoun Negro Will Receive Farming Prize

Bill McClellan, 71 - year - old Negro, of Alexandria, Calhoun County, will receive $100 as the outstanding Negro soil conservation farmer in Alabama, according to announcement yesterday from P. G. Compton of Gallion, president of the Alabama Association of Soil Conservation District Supervisors.

With his soil and water conservation work scoring 98.7 per cent complete on his 40-acre farm, McClellan led more than 2,150 other Negro farmers receiving assistance from Soil Conservation Service technicians. He will go to Log Cabin community, in Hancock County, Ga., to receive the $100 at the Southwide Negro Soil Conservation Jamboree August 6. Prizes of $100 in each of 10 Southern states were arranged by Benjamin F. Hubert, president of Georgia State College for Negroes at Savannah.

McClellan began his soil conservation farming program in 1936. A complete water disposal system, including terraces and meadow waterways, has been established on all his cultivated land. He farms on the contour, and part of his cropland is strip-cropped. He would have scored 100 per cent had he been able to get all of the strip crops in this year.

McClellan has 5 acres of kudzu and 41-2 acres of sericea lespedeza on steep, badly-washed land, and 4 acres of pasture improved by liming, fertilizing, seering, and mowing to control woods and sprouts.

Four acres of the most eroded land were planted to trees, and McClellan carefully protects this young woodland from damage by fire and grazing.

Between the woods and his cultivated land he has planted a wildlife border. The farm road also has a border of sericea lespedeza.

McClellan has been farming the same land 40 years, beginning as a tenant in 1907. He now owns the 40-acre farm, free from debt, and has money in the bank Chairmar J. M. Prickett of the Coosa River Soil Conservation District paid tribute to McClellan and his family, as "good citizens, always for whatever is right in their community."

All sons of holders of the Congressional Medal of Honor are eligible to attend West Point if appointed by the President and if they are otherwise qualified physically and mentally.

Augusta, Ga., Herald
July 15, 1947

NEGRO FARMER ANNEXES PRIZE

PENDLETON, S. C. — J. B. Douthit, president of the South Carolina State Association of District Soil Conservation Supervisors, today announced that M. B. Porter, Pendleton, Negro farmer of the Lebanon section of Anderson county, has been named the outstanding Negro farmer cooperating with the Soil Conservation Districts in this state.

He will be awarded the $100 prize made available for the contest through the efforts of Benjamin F. Hubert, president of Georgia State College at Industrial College, Georgia. The awards are being distributed by the Association for the advancement of Negro life. Porter was selected from among Negro landowners throughout the state who are cooperators in the district soil conservation program.

Mr. Douthit said Porter has done an outstanding job of soil conservation farming on his 53-acre farm, working in close cooperation with the soil conservation district technicians of the Upper Savannah Soil Conservation District and the Negro county agent of Anderson county. Besides doing a good job on his own farm he attended a terracing school in his county for instruction in locating and constructing terraces. Following this training he has assisted his neighbors in terracing their farms.

Mr. Douthit said the judges reported that the Negroes visited in making the final selection are all doing good conservation work and that any one of the 6 or 8 best ones would have been a credible winner. Named as closely competing with the winner were Tom McElrath of Spartanburg county and James Archie of Chester county.

Robert Edward Lee of Aiken county was named as the winner of a county prize in Aiken county.

Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser
Mon. 7/14/47

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Mon. 7/14/47

McClellan has been farming the same land 40 years, beginning as a tenant in 1907. He now owns the 40-acre farm, free from debt, and has money in the bank Chairman J. M. Prickett of the Coosa River Soil Conservation District paid tribute to McClellan and his family, as "good citizens, always for whatever is right in their community."

a. m. W. F. Hall, a supervisor of the Piedmont Soil Conservation District, will preside, and Hubert will give the awards.

Williamson is the youngest of the winners, and McClellan the oldest. Now in his early twenties, Williamson took over the farm after his father's death in 1936. Since 1945 he has put a complete soil conservation program on the 85-acre farm, and has increased farm income by $1,500 a year.

McClellan is 71, the son of par[illegible] help from Soil [illegible] erts once slaves. He has been [illegible] Selec- farming the same 40 acres for 40 [illegible] years, but in 1935 he still owed [illegible] representatives of $250 on the land. McClellan said [illegible] sociation of Soil he has paid the debt, has made [illegible] district supervisors. farm building improvements, and [illegible], assistant region- has money in the bank. His soil [illegible] of the Soil Con- conservation program, begun in [illegible] at Spartanburg, 1936, was 98.7 percent complete [illegible] principal speak- at the time he was chosen as the [illegible] starting at 11 Alabama award winner.

The unveiling of the portrait was done by the young grandson after it had been presented by Solicitor Sidney S. Tison of Bennettsville. The acceptance of the portrait was made by Judge Woodrow Lewis, resident judge of Darlington. The portrait was presented by the Darlington county Bar Association

Anderson Negro Wins Farm Award At Georgia Center

Sparta, Ga., Aug. 6—(AP)—The work of ten Negro farmers in halting soil erosion and rebuilding farms in ten southern states was honored today in a ceremony at Log Cabin community, Negro farming center near here.

The ten farmers, each of whom won $100 awards for carrying out a complete soil conservation program, were selected from more than 11,300 Negro farmers who have been working under direction of their soil conservation district offices.

The prizes were offered by the Association for the Advancement of Negro Country Life, headed by Benjamin F. Hubert.

Winners of the awards were Bill McClellan, Alexandria, Ala.; Prentis Monk, Columbia county, Ark.; Jack Crump, Lloyd, Fla.; Willie Long, Danielsville, Ga.; James A. Williamson, Pelham, N. C., Colin Johnson, Hugo, Okla.; M. B. Porter, Anderson county, S. C., Lee Lesley, Murfreesboro, Tenn.; Henry Caraway, Teneha, Texas, and Cade F. Nappier, Tye River, Va.

It was the first southwide soil conservation meeting of Negro farmers. The visitors were shown results obtained in the Log Cabin area, where Negroes own more than 12,000 acres of land. Production of catfle has been increased over 1,000 per cent in recent years.

The Log Cabin center has a 40[illegible] member church, a ten-teacher school built from a one-room cabin, a community house, community store, swimming pool, fish pond, health center and the only Girl Scout center for Negroes in the country.

The community also boasts of the "off campus summer school" for Negro teachers of farm children.

10 Top Negro Farmers To Get Awards Today

SPARTA, Aug. 5—(AP)—Ten Negro farmers, chosen as the outstanding Negro soil conservation farmers in 10 Southern States, will be honored at a South-wide soil conservation jamboree in Log Cabin community near here Wednesday River, Va.

Each of the 10 farmers will receive a $100 prize, awarded by the work of all the winners. In Benjamin F. Hubert, of the Asso- recommending Caraway for the ciation for the Advancement of Texas award, Chairman Ben T. Negro Country Life. Childs, of the Shelby-Panola Dis-

The winners, most of whom will trict, said "We feel that the Hen- attend, are: ry Caraway farm will pass on to

Bill McClellan, Alexandria, its next operator a better farm Ala.; Prentis Monk, Columbia than it was. That is the true test County, Ark.; Jack Crump, Lloyd, of a conservation farmer. Henry Ala.; Willie Long, Danielsville, Ga.; Caraway is such a farmer." James A. Williamson, Pelham, These men were chosen from N. C.; Collin Johnson, Hugo, Okla.; more than 11,300 Negroes who M. B. Porter, Anderson County, have received assistance from S. C.; Lee Lesley, Murfreesboro, their Soil Conservation districts. Tenn.; Henry Caraway, Teneha, Each is carying out a complete Texas, and Cade F. Nappier, Tye farm soil conservation programer in a program starting at 11 Alabama award winner.

Conservation Service technicians districts. Selec- farming the same 40 acres for 40 [illegible] years, but in 1935 he still owed [illegible] representatives of $250 on the land. McClellan said [illegible] sociation of Soil he has paid the debt, has made [illegible] district supervisors. farm building improvements, and [illegible], assistant region- has money in the bank. His soil [illegible] of the Soil Con- conservation program, begun in [illegible] at Spartanburg, 1936, was 98.7 percent complete [illegible] principal speak- at the time he was chosen as the [illegible] starting at 11 Alabama award winner.

Macon, Ga., Telegraph
August 3, 1947

South-Wide Conservation Program for Negroes Set

Farmers From 10 States to Receive Cash prizes for Soil Improvement

The first annual South-wide Soil Conservation program for Negroes will be held at Log Cabin Center, Mayfield, August 6, starting at 11 a.m., Dr. Benjamin F. Hubert, executive director of the Association for Advancement of Negro Life, announced last night.

The association has made available a prize of $100 to be awarde to 10 Negroes from 10 states, on the basis of the best work done in soil conservation. The winning farmers will be present at the meeting on August 6 and prizes will be awarded at that time.

PORTER IS WINNER

M. B. Porter of Anderson County, South Carolina, has been announced as the winner for his state, Hubert said. Porter's story is indicative of what may be done by the Negro farmer who takes advantage of his opportunities, the director pointed out.

Porter joined a 4-H Club when he was a boy and stayed in the club until he was 20 years old. When he married, he decided to purchase a farm adjoining that of his father and secured a loan through the Federal Loan Bank in 1938. The farm of 53 acres was badly washed and the gullies had to be filled before terraces could be made.

In 1940, the farm produced four bales of cotton, some oats that "didn't get high enough to cut with a binder and some nubbin corn," said Porter, so he went to his soil conservation district technician.

Co-operating with the district, he worked out his farm plan to include terracing, meadow strips, strip rotation of small grain and row crops, the growing of more lespedeza and establishment of field borders of sericea lespedeza.

"In 1944," said Porter, "the SCS conducted a school in surveying and my brother and I attended. As a result of that training we were able to survey lines and build terraces for our neighbors which increased our total income by $1,800 that year."

In 1946, the farm's yield was 20 bales of cotton on 10 acres, 135 bushels of corn on 5 acres and 1,100 bushels of oats on 20 acres.

As a result of ihs increased yields, Porter built a rock home, the necessary out buildings, paid for his farm and he now owns a truck, tractor with all attachments, half interest in a combine, and an automobile for his family's use.

At the meeting at Log Cabin Community Center, T. M. Asbury, state conservationist of Athens, will speak. Both white and colored soil conservationists and farmers and community leaders are invited to the meeting.

Savannah, Ga., News
August 10, 1947

Negroes Succeed In Georgia

A Close-up of the First Annual South-wide Soil Conservation Jamboree — Negro Farmers — Dr. J. W. Sargeant's Address—Virginia Phillips—White Folks Look for Colored Folks.

BY BENJAMIN F. HUBERT

The first annual Southwide Soil Conservation Jamboree is now history. What happened at this meeting in Hancock county, Georgia, will do much to make life for every human being in Georgia and the whole South, rural and urban, more nearly what it should be.

The Negro Farmer

This is the first time that full recognition and favorable publicity has been given, on such a wide scale, to black men and women who have achieved on the soil. Negroes present at the meeting were happy to be a part of this history making celebration. White people, who were there in large numbers, enjoyed paying this just and timely tribute to black folks who have made stimulating records on the soil. Both race groups cheered lustly when each man came forward to be awarded his prize.

There were thirty prizes offered to Georgia colored farmers. The district prizes in Georgia were awarded to men in Taylor, Early, Lamar, Johnson, Taliaferro, Jenkins and Pierce counties.

County prizes in the Piedmont Conservation district were awarded to farmers from Morgan, Greene, Hancock, Jones, Taliaferro, Baldwin and Putman counties. These fine looking representatives of colored people, who make their living on the farms, all came forward to receive their honors with smiles on their faces. Three prizes went to each county. G. E. McWorter, district soil conservationist of the Piedmont district, Milledgeville, Ga., was all smiles at the success of his pacesetting district. Soil Conservationist Tom L. Asbury of Athens, Ga., was happy to see these state, district and county winners and their friends present at the Jamboree.

All of the ten states were represented except Texas, Arkansas and North Carolina. Many pictures were made by the regional and Washington Soil Conservation officials and private agencies.

Message of the Guest Speaker

Dr. J. W. Sergeant, assistant regional conservator of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, brought a great and inspiring message. He called attention to the dependence of all of our economic and social fabric, upon the soil. Good fertile soil is basic and fundamental to a happy and contented people, he said. He pointed out the relation of good soil and fine robust human bodies, good teeth and fine bone structure. It was a message that every person present will recall whenever he has occasion to look at a muddy stream on his or his neighbor's farm. He will see in this stream happy, prosperous homes, school houses and churches being carried out to the ocean. The speaker challenged the audience to evidence in their fine performanes, on the land, respect and love for the land as the source of all things worthwhile.

Little Virginia Phillips

Little Virginia Phillips, the attractive little 13-year-old daughter of Sidney J. Phillips, president of the Booker Washington Birth Place Memorial, came all the way from Tuskegee Institute, Alabama, with her mother and father. President Phillips spoke but little Virginia took the spotlight when she spoke on "Nutrition and Soil Conservation." She dramatically explained the close relationshrip between minerals in soil, carried to the individual, through vegetables consumed by the human body. The photographers and the moving picture men were happy to get a glimpse of this little girl who knows the value of good soil to human beings. She in her personality and her knowledge of soil science and good living, simply let us know what all of our public schools should teach.

The Open Air Barbecue

The open air barbecue, of hogs and hens, down by the spring and swimming pool, back of the Log Cabin, was worth going miles to see and to eat. It was prepared by two Georgia colored farmers who are masters at their job. I never ate any better prepared barbecue. Most of the other people present were of the same mind. The entertainment in the Community House under the pines ended a day full of helpful and stimulating information and open air recreation.

A Surprise to Me

It was a complete and unexpected surprise to me when the presiding officer, Mr. W. F. Hall (white) halted the program for Prof. Homer T. Edwards, supervising principal of Athens, Georgia colored public schools, to make an announcement. When Edwards began to speak, he asked that I stand. Then in a few well chosen words he presented me a purse of $150, a present from the teachers of the "Log Cabin Off Campus Summer School." A teacher of the summer school read an original poem calling attention to some of the efforts Benjamin F. Hubert has endeavored to make in the interest of all the people. I am still wondering how I can do something to evidence and indicate my right to such a fine treat from so many good rural Georgia friends.

White Folks Look for Colored Folks

On last Monday I had business in Sparta, Sandersville, Louisville and Wrens. When I returned to Sparta on the way to Log Cabin, a white merchant, the president of the Sparta Lions Club, called me, in the street, to say that "Atlanta has been calling you all the afternoon. You were asked to return the call collect." I failed to get connection with the Atlanta party. I was in Greene county on Tuesday. The same party was still trying to locate me. Can you imagine it? For the better part of two days the special correspondent of The New York Times Magazine and the Associated Press was calling me for information about the farmers Jamboree at Log Cabin on Wednesday. He had already called the Regional Soil Conservation Service at Spartanburg, S. C.

It's a long way from New York city to a Georgia farm in Hancock county, twedve miles out from a railroad. But a representative of one of the world's leading magazines—a white man—was making every possible effort to find out what black people in Georgia planned to do. When colored folks can challenge the favorable attention of the best thinking white people thousands of miles away—in the urban centers—there is some reason to feel that we are on the way up!

Madison, Ga.
Morgan Co. Tribune
Aug 15-1947

5 Morgan Negroes Win Prizes In Soil Jamboree

Five Morgan County Negro farmers won prizes and honorable mentions in the First Annual South-Wide Soil Conservation Jamboree held recently at the Log Cabin Center, near Mayfield, Ga.

The program for the meeting included interesting talks by soil conservationists and friends of the conservation program among them J. W. Sargent, of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, with headquarters in Spartanburg, S. C.; James P. Davis, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and Ralph McGinn, executive editor of the Atlanta Constitution.

State and district winners were named as were winners in the Negro Farmers' Soil Conservation Contest in the Piedmont District, which includes Morgan County. Among those named in the latter contest were the following from this County:

In the small grain contest: Sam Jones, of Route 4, first place; Tom Jones, second place, and Ed Ingram, honorable mention.

For the best unit of pasture improvement, not less than three acres: Jerry Head, first place.

For the best three or more acres of winter grazing, mixtures of grain and legumes: General Jackson, honorable mention.

Farmer Saves 50 Texas Acres

Chicago Defender

Chicago, Illinois

Waddleton Finds Conservation Pays

Sat-8-9-47

FORT WORTH, Tex.—O. W. Waddleton faced a gloomy future when he bought a 50-acre farm near Winnsboro, Tex., in 1939.

Badly eroded, the farm had become so unprofitable that the previous owner had not been able to make a living from it even when he stopped paying taxes and interest on a loan on the land. After severe sheet and gully erosion had put 12 of the 50 acres out of production altogether, the former occupant had given up and moved off. Sat-8-9-47

Waddleton bought the run-down place for $450 through the Federal Land bank. When he moved on the farm in the fall of 1939, its average income had dropped to $400 to $500 a year, all derived from cotton and corn. The average cotton yield was about a fifth of a bale an acre, corn ten bushels an acre.

"My land was really going down hill fast when I signed the agreement and the Soil Conservation Service boys came out to help me," Waddleton recalls.

"Heavy rains had made the erosion much worse by 1940 and gullies were cutting into several areas. Things looked bad for me."

Waddleton set to work on his conservation program with fresh vigor and determination. With his work animals and district-owned equipment he began a system of terraces on his sloping land to hold the rainwater in check and he has now completed 10,000 feet of the terraces.

To stop gullying and level off the existing gullies, he planted kudzu, a crop that also is used for grazing and hay and that brings in additional revenue when its crowns are sold, crowns being the part of the plan by which reproduction is accomplished.

His entire cultivated area has been seeded at least once to crotalaria and most of it to Austrian winter peas, crops that add nitrogen to the soil and improve its texture and composition. He has used sericea lespedeza as an erosion - controlling, soil - improving, grazing and hay crop.

He has cleared three acres, leveled and seeded his entire pasture to Kobe lespedeza and white Dutch clover to improve and increase forage for his livestock. He fertilized the pasture with 400 pounds of phosphate per acre to insure a good stand of nourishing forage plants. He mows the pasture to control weeds that would compete with forage plants. Today every acre of the farm is in productive use. Sat-8-9-47

Waddleton's cotton yield has increased from 1-5 to ½ a bale an acre, corn from 10 to 30 bushels, sweet potatoes from 60 to 200 bushels. In 1946 he received $1100 for his cotton and sweet potatoes alone. From two acres planted to peanuts after a soil-improving crotalaria crop, he harvested four tons of hay which he fed to his stock and four tons of peanuts which he sold for $360. Before he began his conservation program the farm could carry only three milk cows and calves and four head of work stock, but now it supports eight milk cows, three head of white faced beef cattle, five calves and four head of work stock.

In the past 12 months Waddleton has received $800 for milk, $250 for calves, $100 for chickens, $400 for table peas and $150 for Irish potatoes, total cash income from crops being $2110. This does not include the value of the corn and hay and other livestock feed crops or the food grown on the farm for family use.

In 1945 Waddleton sold half of his 2,000-pound crotalaria seed crop and with the proceeds paid off the loan with which he had bought the farm. He has built a $1,000 barn and plans to build a new house next year. He pays the taxes on the place promptly to benefit by the usual discount.

White Banks Sponsor New Farm Program

Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

wed. 11-22-47 sat.

MAGNOLIA, Miss.—Farmers and farm experts joined with soil conservationists and representatives of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in observing Pike County's first Negro Dairy Field Day, in the Kelly community near Progress. The affair was attended by seventy-five Negro farmers, with six banks backing the movement.

The banks are providing a cash fund to be used in encouraging pasture improvement in the community. County Agent George Mullendore pointed out that there are more Negro farmers in Pike County than there are white farmers. "If Pike County agriculture, which is the basis of the county's wealth, is to progress and improve," he said, "these Negro farmers must be taught the newest ideas in profitable agriculture." Sat. 11-22-47

A. Marks is the Negro County Agent, who is helping the dairy farmers and dirt farmers as well to enhance their properties through scientific soil conservation and modern breeding methods.

NEGRO FARMERS MAKE LAND PLANS

By MRS. G. B. MOORE

SPARTA—As a direct result of the Negro Soil Conservation Southwide Jamboree which was held in this county last Wednesday, numbers of Negro farmers are planning to improve their lands.

In some instances they own the land upon which they are farming, while others are renting but they now realize it will be to their advantage to begin "saving the soil" and thereby make better crops and have more money for themselves as well as the landlord. B. F. Hubert, native of this county and well known Negro educator, who recently retired as president of the Georgia State College in Savannah, is sponsoring this work and hopes to make it Southwide.

Champion Negro farmers from six Southern states were here last week and received checks for $100 each for their good work.

Both state and federal soil conservationists are joining Hubert in this worthy work to rebuild the farm lands of his county and all over the South.

Meanwhile, the 4-H Clubs, boys and girls in Hancock County are making a tidy sum each week selling surplus vegetables which they have raised in their gardens. At present the vegetables are being sold on the courthuose porch but in the near future the youngsters expect to have a sales shed which will be built for them by the county commissioners on a lot back of the courthouse.

This project was established several weeks ago by County Agent Wilton Stewart and has been very satisfactory both to the boys and girls and also to the housewives who are glad to get the fresh vegetables. It is expected to grow from year to year.

Sat 8-9-47

O. W. WADDLETON (top picture) is shown behind his mule team mowing weeds from pasture of his 50-acre farm near Winnsboro, Tex. This is one of many techniques Waddleton learned through close cooperation with the U. S. Conservation Service and helps do away with the menace to his forage crops. In the center picture, Waddleton is shown with a soil conservationist inspecting a new, improved grain crop, and in the lower picture, the farmer is shown in a field of sweet potatoes which, together with cotton, brought him $1100 of his greatly increased income last year. In 1939 the total annual income of the farm was $400.

Negro To Get $100 For Soil Conservation

Birm. Ala. News

Sun. 7-13-47

GALLION, Ala., July 12—Bill McClellan, 71-year-old Negro born of parents once slaves, of Alexandria, will receive $100 as the outstanding Negro soil conservation farmer in Alabama, President P. G. Compton of the Alabama Association of Soil Conservation District Supervisors announced here today.

With his soil and water conservation scoring 98.7 per cent complete, McClellan led more than 2,150 other Negro farmers who are receiving assistance from their soil conservation districts, President Compton said.

McClellan will go to Log Cabin Community in Hancock County, Ga., to receive the $100 at the Southwide Negro Soil Conservation jamboree Aug. 6. Prizes of $100 in each of 10 Southern states were arranged by Benjamin F. Hubert, president of Georgia State College for Negroes at Savannah.

Leading Alabama Negro soil conservation farmers who also ranked high: Otto McKinney, Chilton County, North Central Soil Conservation District; Walter Alexander, Eutaw, in the Black Belt District; Willie Maffett, Newell, in the Piedmont District; J. W. Greenwood Clayton, in the East Alabama District; Elijah Lynum, Manila, in the Mobile River District, and James H. Wilson, Houston County, in the Wiregrass District.

What a Negro Farmer Did With Soil Conservation

From The Arkansas Gazette (Little Rock)

Dallas, Tex.

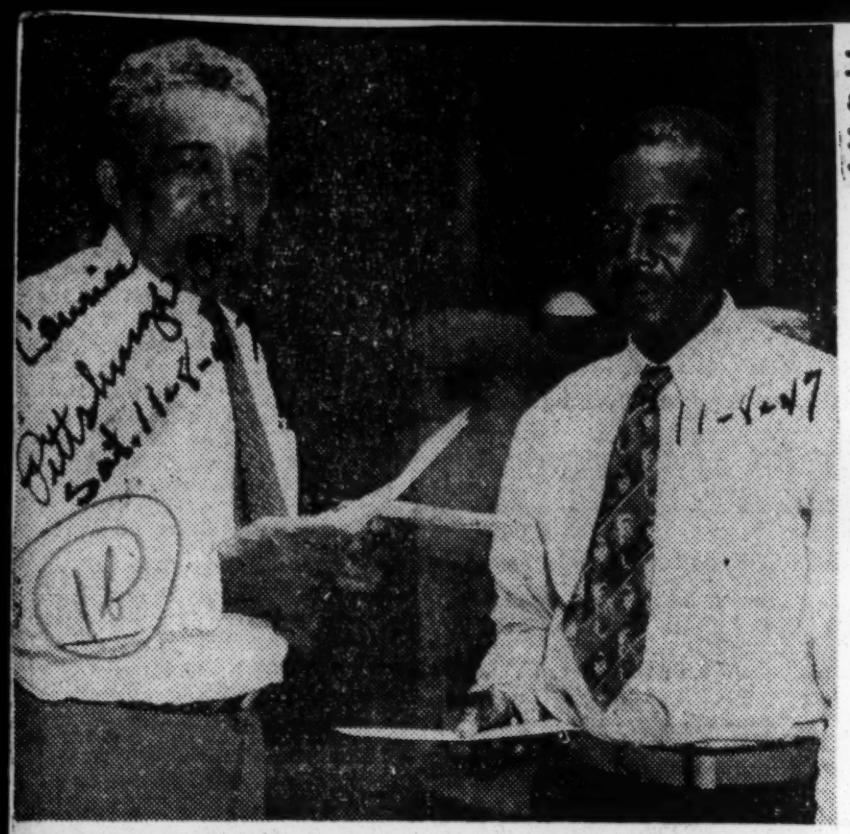
The farm property of Prentis Monk, who won the Arkansas award in the soil conservation contest, for negro farmers, which was conducted in 10 States, is valued at $10,000. He says that everything he owned was not worth $600 in 1936 when he asked the Soil Conservation Service for help. He started with a 40-acre farm in Columbia County. Now he owns 120 acres, including cropland, woodland and pasture. He has been able to build an eight-room house for his large family. Sat.

His farm originally was smaller than the average-size in Arkansas, which was 64 acres last year. Although Arkansas plantations are well known, only 578 farms in the State had in 1946 more than 1,000 acres. A study made by the AAA showed that 25 per cent of the farms in Arkansas include less than 20 acres of cropland and non-crop pasture, and that about 60 per cent have less than 40 acres of cropland and non-crop pasture. Many of the farms are situated in areas which are much more subject to erosion than is the Bayou Dorcheat region in which Prentis Monk's farm is located. 9-22-47 Southern Weekly

The Soil Conservation Service has shown thousands of farmers, as it has shown Prentis Monk, how land of declining fertility can be built up to a good stage of productivity. The technical assistance given the farmers has contributed to increase in both urban and rural wealth in Arkansas. The value of soil conservation practices has been proved too many times to be doubted. But the question remains whether a small farmer with a big family could, or would, initiate adequate soil conservation without government benefit payments.

cropland is strip-cropped. He would ture improved by liming, fertiliz- and four and one-half acres of ve scored 100 per cent had he ing, seeding and mowing to con- en able to get all of the strip trol weeds and sprouts. ops in this year. McClellan has five acres of kud- ricea lespedeza on steep, badly- shed land, and four acres of pas- farm. Sun. 7-13-47

McClellan received assistance The award winner began his con-have sc from Soil Conservation Service servation farming program in 1936, been ab technicians in the Coosa River Dis- A complete water disposal system, crops in trict in planning, applying and including terraces and meadow McCle maintaining a soil conservation pro- waterways, has been established zu and gram covering all of his 40-acre on all his cultivated land. He farms sericea part of his washed on the contour, and



DOUBLED PRODUCTION—An Oklahoma farmer, Collin Johnson, right, increased his cotton yield 500 per cent by carrying out sound soil and water conservation practices, and he gets a check for $100 from Dr. B. F. Hubert, director of the Association for the Advancement of Negro Country Life at a soil conservation jamboree at Log Cabin, Ga.—USDA Photo.

NEGRO FARMERS LAUDED

Defender Chicago, Ill

A unique honor came to the colored farmers of Virginia recently when the October issue of the Soil Saver was devoted exclusively to their soil conservation activities.

Sat. 12-27-47

The Soil Saver is a four-page bulletin prepared cooperatively by the Thomas Jefferson Soil Conservation District of Virginia and the Extension Division of the University of Virginia.

The publication describes how five colored farmers have increased their income by following sound soil and water conservation practices.

One of the farmers, Cade F. Nappier, the colored soil conservation champion of the State, increased his corn yield from five bushel per acre to 50 and his income from around $300 a year to $1,800 by filling in the gullies, stopping erosion, and building up the fertility of his land.

Another of the farmers listed in the bulletin is the Rev. H. B. Perry, who farms 13 acres to supplement his income from preaching. When he bought his place 10 years ago, the soil on it was too poor to grow grass.

Tennessee

A ROADSIDE vegetable market, owned by Clarence Harris, a young 4-H Club member, showed an income of $3,000 within a 12-month period last year.

The garden is located about 13 miles from Memphis, Tenn., and Clarence had the advice and guidance of R. H. Brown, who has been serving as county agent for the past 28 years.

Aided by his brother, Willie, Clarence erected a crude table and placed it in the front yard of his home near the highway. On it he displayed a few heads of cabbage, a basket of tomatoes and three dozen ears of corn. He sold out within a couple of hours, he said.

That was in June. A week later, he sold his two calves and enough vegetables to purchase material to erect a more permanent stand. He finished building his market by the middle of July and made arrangements to buy fruits, vegetables, chickens and eggs from neighboring farmers and resell them at his market, which he calls the "4-H Club Roadside Market."

He decided to provide more produce for his market by sharecropping 200 acres for his high school principal, a large part of this acreage he uses as pasture for his 15 calves which he bought after he began his roadside market. Clarence's dream is to go to college and learn all he can about livestock and dairying, he revealed.

Jb 1947

$10,000-A-Year Farmer Produces Varied Cash Crop

Sat. 7-5-47

WASHINGTON—"You know, getting into farming is like catching a bear by the tail," says Mitchell E. Erwin, $10,000-a-year colored farmer who operates 200 acres near Tyler, Texas.

"I never planned to be a farmer; I wanted to be a businessman," says Mr. Erwin, "and after completing about half my freshman year at Butler College, I dropped out of school and started farming to get a stake to go into business."

That was 30 years ago and Mr. Erwin is still farming, although not to get a stake to go into business—with him farming is a business, and a highly profitable one.

The year before the outbreak of World War I, Erwin started farming as a tenant. Anxious to make that business stake, he rented 100 acres and hired workers to help him grow a big cotton crop. But what the boll weevils didn't get of his crop went for labor and food. So. Erwin found himself in debt at the end of the year—he had the bear by the tail.

CUTS LABOR COSTS

Determined to profit by his mistake, Farmer Erwin cut down on his labor costs by planting less cotton and in its stead planting a few vegetables. By selling vegetables in summer and fuel wood off the farm in winter, he managed to keep his second crop almost debt free. And he received enough from his cotton to pay off his old debts and make the down-payment on 50 acres.

Today, Mr. Erwin operates a 200-acre farm of which he owns 117 acres. He lives in an attractive, comfortable home, and has reared and educated six of his nine children; three of his children are still in school.

Farmer Erwin's formula for success is simple: "Don't count on any one crop to carry the whole farm load," he says. "If you are not sure what to plant, call on your county agent and tell him your problem." And he follows his own advice. County Agent B. J. Pryor says that whenever Mr. Erwin runs into problems, he comes by for help. Not only does he make good use of the information in handling his own crop, but as an Extension Service community farm leader, he also passes it along to his neighbors.

As for one-crop farming, Mr. Erwin learned his lesson 30 years ago. He is a confirmed believer in diversification. Sat. 7-5-47

His cropping program in 1946 was as follows: 14 acres of cotton, 15 acres of corn, 15 acres of watermelons, 35 acres of sweetpotatoes, four acres of roses, a half-acre garden, 20 head of beef and dairy cattle, nine hogs, and 100 chickens.

VARIED CROP

When asked how much he grossed last year, Mr. Erwin replied, "Well now let's see; you add it up." Then he enumerated: Sweetpotatoes, $5,700; fuel wood, about $2,500, melons, $1,100, and cotton $400.

Pointing to his roses, Farmer Erwin said: "I didn't sell any roses last year. You see, I stopped growing roses about four years ago; just got back into them last year. The way we grow 'em it takes a couple of years to get a crop. However, by planting a new crop every year, you can harvest a crop every year, that is, after the first year."

Asked how much he expected to gross from the rose crop, he said, "Oh, I'll sell about 50,000 plants, you know, the kind you city fellows buy at the Five and Ten Cents stores to set out in your yard. For my plants I expect to receive about 10 cents each; that means the 50,000 will bring about $5,000."

Not only do the Erwins have a diversified farming program, but they live at home, too; grow their own meat, and vegetables, and produce their own eggs, milk, and butter. Last year, Mrs. Erwin canned 400 quarts of food, and Mr. Erwin cured enough pork to last throughout the year. Sat. 7-5-47

If this is a bear the Erwins have by the tail, many other Texas farmers would like to have a bear like it And, like the Erwins, they certainly wouldn't let it go.

Texas

Don't Pity the Farmer

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Here's One Who Nets $10,000 Selling Everything from Cabbage to Roses

Sat. 7-26-47

Gallons of crocodile tears have been shed over the plight of the poor Dixie farmer, but they should not include Mitchell E. Erwin, who operates a 200-acre farm near Tyler, Texas, from which he nets around $10,000 a year.

"I never planned to be a farmer; I wanted to be a business man," says Mr. Erwin, "and after completing about half my freshman year at Butler College, I dropped out of school and started farming to get a stake to go into business."

That was 30 years ago, and Mr. Erwin is still farming, although not to get a stake to go into business—with him farming is a business, and a highly profitable one.

Even Sells Roses

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Everything raised on a farm has profit in it if it is properly handled, Erwin believes.

As for one-crop farming, Mr. Erwin learned his lesson 30 years ago. He is a confirmed believer in diversification.

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Rural Leaders Virginia Negroes Farmers and Become Better

Richmond, Va. Times-Dispatch
January 19, 1947

1b Va.

Sixteen-year-old Russel Deyo (above), of Sparta, raises sweet potatoes and tobacco on a large farm he cultivates with his father.

By Ansel Landau

ANNUALLY for the past two decades more than 2,000 Negro youths in the Old Dominion have been preparing themselves to be better farmers and leaders in rural communities. The result of this training may be seen today in the improved farm practices throughout rural Virginia and 16 other Southern States where the New Farmers of America organization exists.

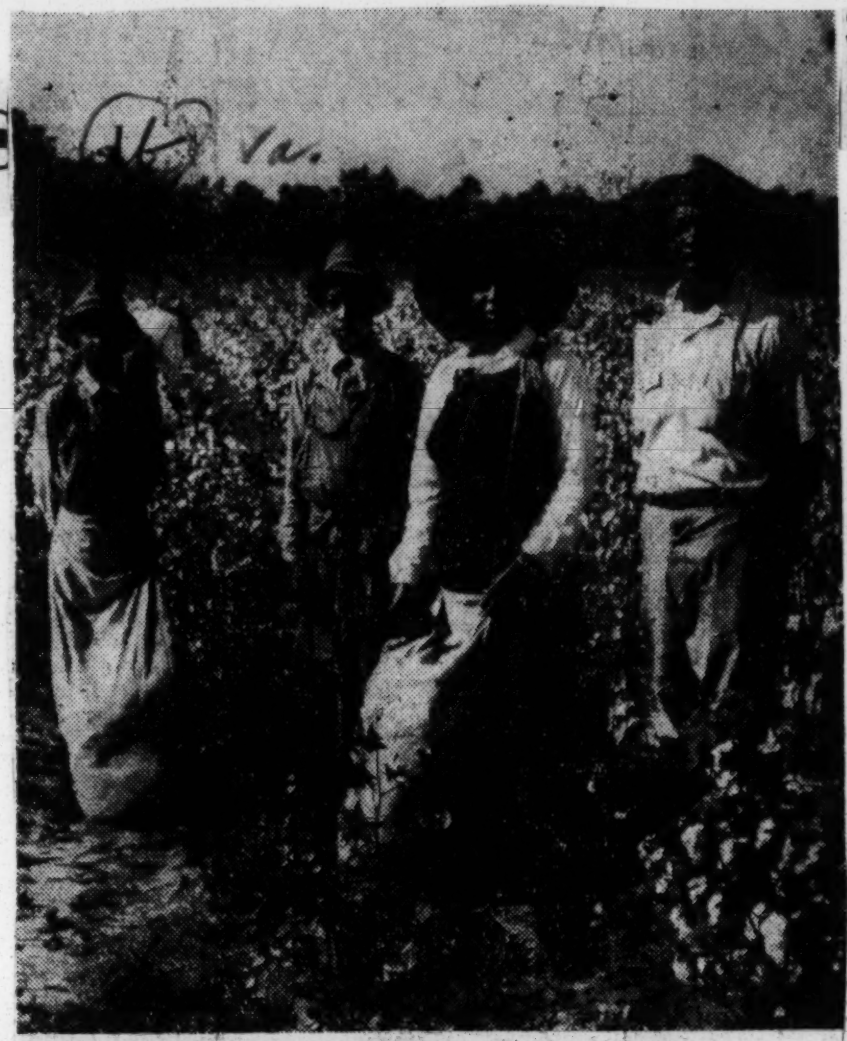
Founded a year after the establishment of the Future Farmers of America, in 1926, for white youth studying agriculture in public high schools, the New Farmers of America has as its basic philosophy that learning to farm comes from actual experience in farming.

1b Va.

For many years now Negro agricultural leaders have been increasingly interested in the problem of getting young men established in farming on a satisfactory basis. The New Farmers of America, organized in May, 1927, in Virginia, set as its main objective the building of a more permanent agriculture and the improvement of rural life for Negroes. Supervised training in better farm practices was offered all boys enrolled in vocational agricultural classes in public high schools in the State. The idea was enthusiastically received by agricultural instructors and students alike and soon spread to other States where Negroes are engaged in agricultural pursuits. Today 17 Southern Commonwealths have Statewide NFA organizations, with nearly 23,000 youths enrolled as active members.

Organized as an integral part of the vocational agricultural classes in public schools, the NFA teaches members that there is dignity in farm work, and that a farmer shall prosper in proportion to the knowledge and skill he learns to put into the occupation. The creed of the organization is that joy and success accompany the learning process in which a person meets a challenging situation and overcomes it by producing better crops and by creating more attractive home surroundings.

That leadership is developed from within a community and that co-operative agriculture pays dividends have been amply demonstrated by young men who have studied vocational agriculture in Virginia schools and at the same time carried on a supervised farm program project.



Edward Jones (right) raises cotton on a farm he is buying in Holland. His wife (front) helps him in the field.

to young Negro farmers—comparable to the FFA's star-farmer award. It is presented to the most successful young Negro farmer who has been out of public school between three and 10 years. The plaque was presented by the family of Dr. Sargent in memory of his service to the Negro farm youth.

The first award was made in 1940, and was presented to a Virginian, Haley Smith. The award for 1943-44 also was given to a young farmer from the Old Dominion, Reginald W. Holland.

Far-Reaching Program

The belief that every individual has the responsibility for discovering and developing his talents to enrich his own living as well as that of his community is the core of the principle upon which the NFA operates. The practicability of this has been illustrated by hundreds of boys who have gone in for serious farming in rural Virginia during the past 20 years since the NFA has been offering supervised farm training to Negro youth.

How far-reaching the program is in the Old Dominion may be grasped from the fact that last year alone the 2,070 boys enrolled with NFA in vocational agricultural courses earned $235,958.62 from their enterprises while learning. This includes $173,637.13 earned from field crops, agriculture and truck projects; $35,463.31 in animal projects, and $26,857.53 from poultry. These boys cultivated nearly 2,500 acres of land, raised 51,857 fowls and 1,398 head of livestock.

Teachers of agricultural education who supervise the farm projects of NFA members believe that this all-boy farm organization offers the impetus needed to inspire and materially assist youth in bettering themselves through development of skills that will make them successful breadwinners and leaders in rural communities.

In the 10 years that the work has been conducted in Princess Anne County, the instructor has observed that the NFA members soon direct their attention to improving home surroundings. Many of them have put in electric lights, running water and other modern appliances for more comfortable living.

Improved farm practices are seen in the young farmer's insistence on using certified seed for higher yields and the use of recommended fertilizer for more scientific practice, assuring a better return for labor expended.

Young men with such training are becoming community leaders. Instructors throughout rural Virginia report that many former NFA students today serve as presidents of clubs, are leaders of choirs, Boy Scout troops and Sunday schools.

Russell Henry Lawrence, Jr., is a typical example of a youth availing himself of the NFA training. He studied vocational agriculture for two years and was a member of NFA. After leaving school he worked at the Norfolk Navy Yard for a year during the war, then rejoined his father on a farm. The two have bought a 40-acre farm costing $2,200 and paid in cash with savings. Father and son work together today, operating the farm with the aid of two tractors, a truck, a car and other farm

Sargent, for 19 years in charge of Negro vocational training in agriculture for the United States Office of Educa-

National In Scope

THE NFA today is national in scope, extending to 16 States and the Territory of Hawaii. Its membership is composed of 22,158 members in these States and Hawaii. It is estimated that some 8,119 members in the Southern States are expanding.

Like the Future Farmers of America, the NFA was started in Virginia. It was begun at the instigation of the late Dr. H. O. Sargent, for 19 years in charge of Negro vocational training in agriculture for the United States Office of Education under the auspices of the Smith-Hughes Act.

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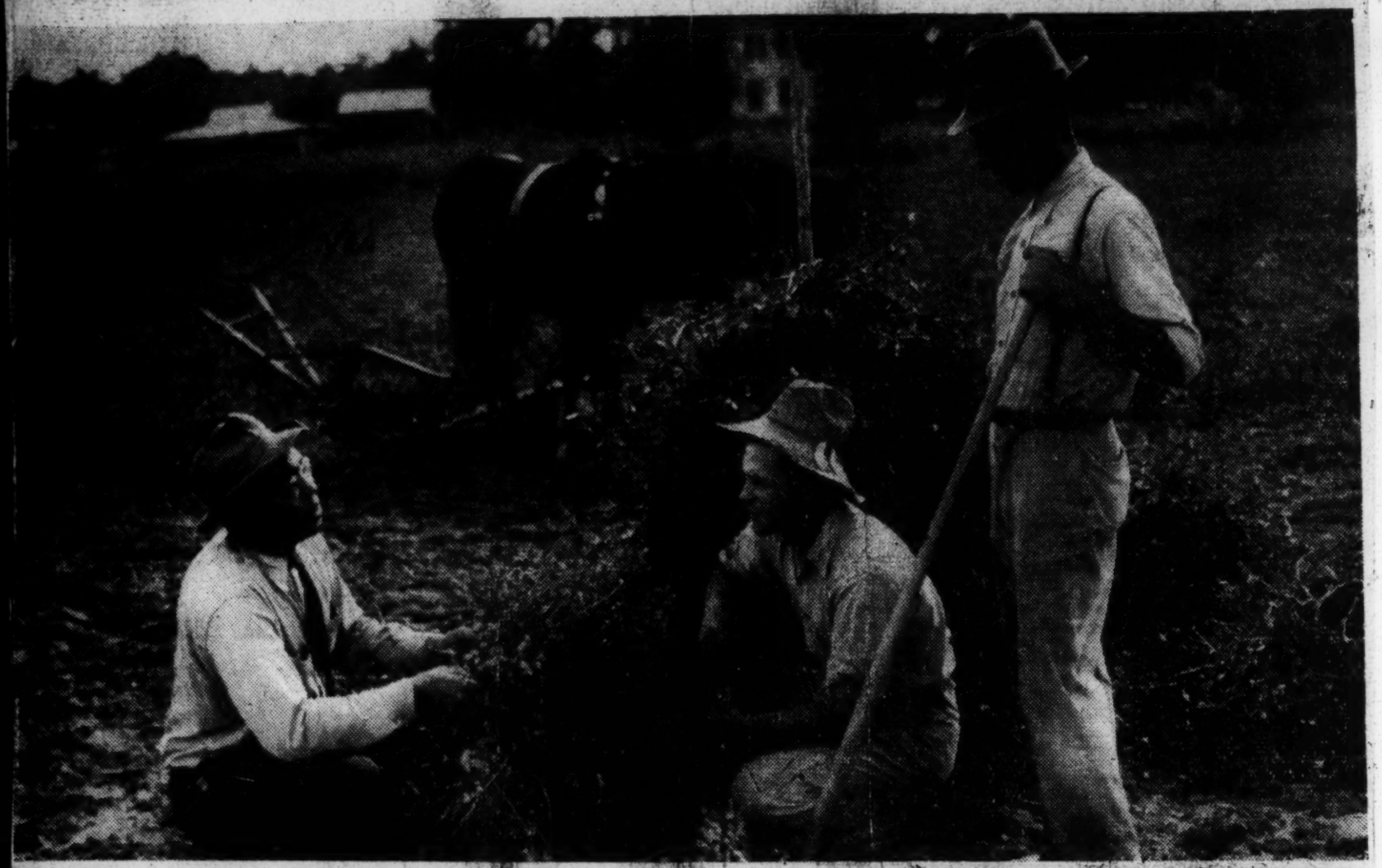
Progressive Youths Establish Themselves in Agriculture



A graduate of a four-year vocational agriculture course and a member of the New Farmers of America, Samuel Carter (center), of Zuni, represents a young man becoming established in farming through the application of better practices in raising peanuts. Here he consults with an agriculture teacher (left) on future plans for the 85-acre farm he cultivates with his father.

tion. G. W. Owen, teacher-trainer at the Virginia State College, in Petersburg, wrote the constitution and by-laws and was its guide for many years.

From its beginning, the farm youth organization has spread to other areas. In 1935 it became national in scope, giving dignity and pride to its members from its strength and record of achievement of its members.

Appropriately enough, Virginia members have achieved distinction in farming under the supervision of the NFA program, as evidenced by the two H. O. Sargent awards presented to Virginians in the past six years. This award is considered the highest recognition of the national organization of the NFA

Would Keep Down Wages of Farm Workers in U.S.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md. Sat. 4-19-47

Although 2,400,000 Are Unemployed Here

Thousands of Foreigners Will Be Recruited

WASHINGTON — (NNPA) — **Acceding to the demands of the sugar-beet industry, the Senate, on April 8, passed the bill providing for a six month's extension and final liquidation of the farm labor supply program.**

The program will bring into competition with farm labor in the South cheap labor from Barbados, Jamaica and the Bahamas, as well as Mexican labor in the Northwest. Sat. 4-19-47

Labor imported under the provisions of the bill will be paid the prevailing wages in the community in which they work, varying from 30 to 45 cents an hour in Louisiana, up to $1.05 an hour on the Pacific Coast.

Cheap Labor Scheme

According to United States Employment Service officials, there are about 2,400,000 unemployed workers in this country, of whom about 800,000 are veterans, but these unemployed workers will not accept farm work at prevailing wages.

Sen. George D. Aiken (Rep., Vt.) admitted that planters were able to keep the wages of local workers from rising by paying imported laborers the prevailing wage and having an adequate supply of labor available; and Sen. Raymond E. Baldwin (Rep., Conn.) had charged that in his State there had been exploitation of cheap labor. Sat. 4-19-47

An amendment to require employers to reimburse the Government for recruitment and transportation of imported workers was defeated by a voice vote. The cost is $200 per worker.

W. I. Workers Sent Home $40,000,000

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Imported Laborers Aided War Effort

WASHINGTON — (NNPA) — **More than $40,000,000 was sent home from this country by agricultural and industrial workers imported here from the West Indies since 1943, the Agriculture Department reported last Thursday.**

The money represented deductions from salaries of Jamaicans, Barbadians, Bahamans and British Hondurans brought to the United States under the farm and industrial labor program to bolster our manpower during the war. Sat. 3-8-47

Contract Explained

Herbert C. McDonald, head of the British West Indian Central Labor Committee said the workers were brought here under a contract which guaranteed them at least 30 cents an hour but tha. the actual average pay per hour exceeds that figure.

They are guaranteed pay for 75% of the contract period whether weather conditions permit them to work or not.

Jamaica refuses to join the central committee, but has its own plan under which Jamaican workers allot 75 cents a day to their families. The Agriculture Department said there are now 4,500 Jamaican, 3,500 Bahaman, and 500 Barbadian workers in the country. Sat. 3-8-47

the recruitment will help considerably in relief of the island's acute unemployment problem.

Most of the boys who are billed to arrive in the U. S. are old friends of American farmers whom they served during the last war. Those who will not be included in the draft are those whom the scanty number cannot absorb.

WANT OLD SITES

The impression which Uncle Sam's "almighty" dollar has made on the pilgrims is hard to remove as day in and day out they crowd the local U. S. consulate seeking means of getting back in Chicago, New York, Hartford and a hundred other places where they had worked two winters ago. Sat. 4-12-47

Meanwhile, the country was shocked to learn Monday that the local immigration office last week ran out of passport forms because many thousands of Jamaicans had booked to leave for Great Britain to relieve the labor shortage there.

5,000 Jamaican Farm Workers Enter U. S.

1c Atlanta, Ga. Daily World
Sat. 4-12-47

By WILBERT E. HEMMING

KINGSTON—(ANP)—Five thousand Jamaican farm workers will be coming to the United States within a fortnight. The executive council in Jamaica is getting the governor's assent for immediate recruitment of the workers for U. S. farms.

The report made an eight-column streamer across the island's morning paper here. It was received hot and crisp in nearly all quarters as despite the small number of 5.000.

lc 1947

General

U.S. Problem of Displaced Farm Labor Held Serious

lc 9- Baltimore, Md.
afro-American
9-13-47

House Committee Report Sees No Solution; Basic Declaration of Policy Necessary

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — The problem of displaced farm labor is one of the most serious human problems to be faced in the agricultural program of this country today, according to a report recently released by the House committee on agriculture.

Mechanized farming, new crop practices, elimination of marginal farms and consolidation of uneconomic farm units will mean further displacement of people now making some kind of a living from the land. 9-13-47

The situation already threatens to become acute in the cotton and sugar beet areas. This situation greatly affects the colored farmer because so great a percentage of the farmers in the cotton belt are colored, it states. South

Problem of Dispossessed

Many questions were raised in the hearings as to what could be done with these displaced persons. Can industry absorb them all? Will the desirable shift to dairy and fresh-vegetable production give them new work in the country?

The United States has had no clearly defined agricultural policy since 1920. As the hearings proceed, the committee hopes to meet the challenge for a basic declaration of national agricultural policy to American farmers and farm leaders.

Tampa, Fla., Tribune
May 21, 1947

NEGROES HERE OFFERED JOBS AT CLEWISTON

Unemployed Negroes of Hillsborough County, up to 1000 families, have an opportunity to win permanent jobs with United States Sugar Corporation at Clewiston, County Agricultural Agent White of Hillsborough announced yesterday.

"Negro families of Hillsborough County are the first to be offered this opportunity for employment," White said. "The success encountered in soliciting Negro farm labor for U. S. Sugar Corporation in this county will be a determining factor in whether similar recruiting programs for the company are carried out in other Florida counties."

Charles A. Sheffield, field agent for the southern states, U. S. Agricultural Extension Service, and Fred C. Sikes, U. S. Sugar Corp., asked White to handle the recruiting program in Hillsborough County.

Sikes' application for Negro labor from Hillsborough said:

Can Use 1000

"We can use 1000 domestic families, providing year-around employment for men and seasonal employment for women.

"Work to be done: Chiefly weeding (hoeing) sugar cane from May 15 to Oct. 15; harvesting (cutting) sugar cane from Oct. 16 to May 1.

"Wages: Practically all work is done on a piece-work basis with a minimum guarantee of 45 cents an hour. All time work carries a rate of not less than 40 cents an hour.

"All workers will be housed in the employer's own housing. Housing includes beds and bed ticks. Each family will make its own arrangements for the preparation of meals; however, employer will assist the worker in procuring a stove and utensils. Employer will provide transportation from village to point of work and return."

White explained that Florida State Employment Service is not an agricultural labor placement agency.

"Negroes willing to accept these jobs with U. S. Sugar Corporation should report to my office in the Madison St. School Building," White said.

The employment service added that "all Negroes applying at our branch office, 902½ Scott St., for agricultural labor, will be sent to Mr. White's office."

Bias Blocks Schools For N.J. Migrants

CRANBURY, N. J. — (NNPA) — Race prejudice and hostility against migratory farm workers on the part of certain segments of this potato growing community caused the state to abandon plans to open an elementary school of such migrants it was learned last Thursday.

The Labor Department's migrant labor board and the State Department of Education, co-sponsors of the project, are negotiating with the Freehold Board of Education for use of facilities in Freehold, the center of the Monmouth-Mercer-Middlesex "Tri-County" farm belt.

The aim of the school, believed to be the first of its kind in the United States to operate under direct supervision of a state education department, is to provide educational opportnity for children of migrant workers and at the same time instill in them self-dignity and respect for farm work.

COOPERATION ABSENT

Migrant Labor Board Secretary Sholl sad abandonmeut of the plan to use the small Main street school here during the next six weeks was due to the "absence of complete community cooperation"

Others, including several state departments which took part in the discussions, laid it entirely to race prejudice. About 98 per cent of New Jersey's migrant labor force is colorde.

"Although we have the splendid cooperation of a majority of the employers and farmers of Cranbury and vicinity who use migratory labor and are in sympathy with the project," Sholl said," it has not been as complete as we think it should be because of the experimental and pioneer nature of the program. So we decided to look.

He said that five teachers, headed by Miss Myrtle Townsend of Camden County, who would serve as principal, had been engaged for the six week's course of elementary instruction.

The state has authorized $4,000 to conduct the Summer School on an experimental basis and the Cranberry school board promised use of its building and other physical facilities. As final preparations were begun to open the school, however, opposition suddenly developed.

This was climaxed by a "citizens' protest meeting" which besieged the school board to rescind its reportedly slit on the question, decided to beak up its bargain, despite a "citizens' protest rally" which accused colored people of carrying communicable diseases and of being undesirable to the area.

Camp O-Tee Offers Over All Program Of Work And Play

WINDSOR, Conn. — News from Camp O-Tee, one of the camps maintained by the Imperial Agricultural corporation providing employment for college students during the summer vacation, reached the Chicago Defender this week from the camp reporter, Warren Lee.

The camp houses men from several southern Negro colleges including: Albany State, Dunbar Junior, Fort Valley State, Florida A. and M., Kentucky State, Livingston, Philander Smith, South Carolina State; Talladega, Tougaloo, Virginia State and Tuskegee Institute.

Residents of the camp are chiefly engaged in harvesting tobacco, however a well-round program of recreational and cultural activities is provided. In addition religious services are held and cultural activities is provided. In addition religious services are held and a glee club and newspaper offer further opportunity for pleasure and training.

Advisory board of the camp includes: Ernest Chagnon, riding supervisor; Stanley B. Loucks, personnel director; Rev. Reverdy C. Ransom, third assistant; Professor Richard W. Pegram, camp director; William Boone, head cook, and Willie Hayes, Rudolph Powell and John P. Rier, group supervisors.

Texas Guards Borders To Stop Migrants

Blockade Checks Workers Leaving For Better Jobs

MARSHALL, Tex. — The state of Texas arrested 13 truck drivers and fined them $25 and costs in a move to prevent cotton pickers from leaving the state and accepting better jobs in other areas.

All 13 arrested were "recruiters" and come under the state's two-year-old law, which requires license for labor recruiters, state authorities declared.

Texas has formed a blocade along the borders of Arkansas and Louisiana. Truck loads of migratory workers were halted and "unlicensed" drivers arrested..

A labor recruiter must take out a license costing $600 per year and an additional license for each county, estimated at $200, and post a $5,000 bond.

Living Like Refugees

There was a time when famine threatened the world for want of machinery.

Thomas Robert Malthus, English political economist, who died in 1834, told the world at what point its population would stop increasing for want of bread. Farmers could sow enough wheat to feed everybody, but they couldn't harvest it. Hand scythes couldn't cut it fast enough; the ripe grain shattered and fell to the ground.

But one year before Malthus died, his prediction was spoiled by McCormick, who invented the reaper and thus enabled farmers to harvest abundance for all.

What used to be true of small grain is still true of many other crops. The farmer can grow much more than he and his family can harvest.

THERE ARE certain favored spots, from Florida to New York, and from Texas to Washington and Minnesota, where soil and climate combine to produce certain crops in great abundance.

Farmers in these favored regions cannot find labor to save what they produce. And a vast quantity of food of many kinds would be lost without migrant workers to harvest it.

This migrant horde, composed of Negroes, Mexicans and poor white people, numbers about two and a half million. They begin work at our Southern border and follow the ripening crops North to Canada.

(This year, a traveler told me, the hard wheat crop in Western Kansas, best in many years, was briefly threatened by lack of workers. Kansas and Texas wheat seemed to ripen at the same time, and the Kansas wheat was almost ready to shatter while the combines and migrants were still working in Texas and Oklahoma.)

The migrant workers are not all foot-loose men, but also married couples with all their numerous children. When they move to a new job, they are usually deep in debt to somebody before they do a week's work. They live on credit.

SINCE they are so necessary to their employers and the nation, one might suppose that they are treated well, but that would be a bad guess. It isn't necessary to go into details, but this will give you the idea. When rain falls day after day, there is no work, no pay, no food.

In one section this year, according to Collier's, parents and children lived on boiled potato peelings. The Red Cross and Salvation Army tried to help, but were not permitted to enter the migrant camps. (Meanwhile we were sending shiploads of food to Europe.)

Washington long ago recognized the principle that the Government has the responsibility of protecting the nation's food supply. Congress unhesitatingly appropriates millions to fight pests that would destroy fruit, grain and other crops.

During the war the Government provided decent housing, community laundries, bathing facilities, electric power and health supervision at camps on the chief migrant routes.

Now Congress has put an end to that, and our most essential workers live like refugees in Europe.

Legislator Threatens U. S. Action

State Agents Had Claimed Authority To Hold Workers

MARSHALL, Texas—(NNPA) — G. E. Hartness, representing the Texas extension service, disclosed here last Monday that the order requiring migratory cotton pickers to show "clearance papers" before leaving Texas has been countermanded.

The action was taken after an aroused state legislator had threatened to take the issue into federal court. The Texas commissioner of labor had set up road blockades to prevent migratory pickers from leaving Texas and going into Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana to pick cotton at higher wages than those paid in Texas.

"The blockade was called off last Tuesday," Mr. Hartness said, "Keys of trucks which had been halted at the borders were restored to the drivers and the trucks were permitted to proceed. Trucks are now moving freely along the highways."

The blockade was imposed Sept. 13. The Texas commissioner of labor ordered borders of the state closed against trucks carrying cotton pickers lacking so-called "clearance papers" from the extension service. More than two dozen truck drivers were arrested at a control station near here.

CLAIM AUTHORITY

State labor department agents

Officials here credited State Rep. Isom T. Heydricks of Marshall with the blockade was ordered when workers began leaving Texas two weeks ago in response to offers of higher wages by Arkansas and Mississippi cotton farmers.

It was said. From 40 to 50 workers when the blockade was attach themselves to a single truck and travel in it for the season. The authority of a Texas law requiring out-of-state workers to pay a state license of $600 a year. The agents had been ordered to treat clear said they had crew leaders as labor recruiters.

Migratory farm workers throughout Texas, most of them persons of Mexican descent, customarily travel inducting the state labor department, a season in a truck procrew leader of "trocero," drick telephoned a blistering pro-

est to the labor commissioner, it was said, and threatened to bring an action in federal court unless the plan was dropped.

"No attempt to stop these workers would have been made if they had been traveling by train," Heydricks said. "It was clearly just as wrong for the state to stop them from leaving in trucks."

Several "troceros" arrested on charges of illegal labor recruiting paid $25 fines in the county court here, but cases of others not yet brought into court are to be dropped, it was said.

Texas 'Slave' Law Holds 60,000 Cotton Pickers

1c Afro-American Baltimore, Md. 9-27-47

WASHINGTON (NNPA)—The State of Texas is forcing 60,000 migratory cotton pickers to remain within its borders and pick cotton at $1.50 and $2 per hundred pounds, when they could go into Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma and get $3.50 per hundred pounds.

Admitting the above fact last Wednesday, Bernard Joy of the Agriculture Department's Extension Farm Labor Program, said that Texas is able legally to prevent migration. Latin Americans form the largest group of the workers and colored persons the next.

The law, passed after the Civil War to prevent exploitation, requires that persons recruiting the nearly 80,000 workers needed each year, pay a $600 State franchise tax and an additional tax of $150 to $300 for each county in which recruiting is done. Sat.

Migratory Workers Moved Out Of La.

1c World, Atlanta, Ga Thu. 12-18-47

WASHINGTON, D.C.—(ANNPA)—The Agriculture Department said ast Tuesday that all Bohemian migratory workers in Louisiana re being moved to Charleston, South Carolina, for reassignment or shipment home, but, planter is alleged to have fired upon nineteen Bahamian worker in their quartcrs on his plantation.

The Department said an incident, reported by Lamar Weaver in the Atlanta Daily World, which said that the workers had gone on strike after being fired on by C. A. Duplantias of the Sunrise Planting Company in Louisiana, had not been officially brought to its attention. Thu. 12-18-47

DICKERSON ACCUSED

Accordiing to the World, the workers accused M. C. Dickerson, Agriculture Department agent, of abusing them and placing them on a train for Charleston, South Carolina, without making provisioons for their meals while on the trip.

William M. Holley, of the Department's extension service, said Dickerson was the agent for the Louisiana area but that he had made no report of the incident to Washington.

More than 350 of the Bohemian workers, who were brought to this country by the Agriculture Department to help market American farm crops, will be sent to Charleston where they will be given a choice of working in Florida or being sent home to Bahama, Holly said. 12-18-47

FLORIDA EMPLOYMENT

He added that the workers who went to Florida would be employed at 50 cents an hour in the marketing of crops, such as beans and potatoes.

Under an act passed during the last session of Congress, providing for a six-month extension of the farm labor supply program, the Secretary of Labor is directed to liquidate by December 31 the program under which farm labor was imported into this country from the West Indies and Mexico. The movement of the laborers back to their homes is to be acvcomplished by January 30, 1948.

Clock to Be Turned Back

Washington Post (1C) (5000)

Condition of Migrant Labor To Return to Prewar Status

Washington, D.C. Mon. 10-6-47

By Agnes E. Meyer

During the war when food was as important as armaments, this Nation succeeded in improving the living and working conditions of migrant agricultural labor. Now, with callous indifference, Congress has sabotaged the war program. It ends December 31, when the Department of Agriculture turns back the recruitment and placement of farm labor to the United States Employment Service. June

The excellent camps which the Farm Security Administration constructed at crucial points throughout the Nation will be sold. The Nation-wide link between producer and migrant worker—the Federal Extension Service—will be broken. And the fate of the dispossessed people who wander yearly from crop to crop will again be left to chance and to such efforts at order and protection as the individual States can make.

Many of these Stateless workers, upon whose labor much of our food production depends, will again be sleeping on the ditchbanks of Texas. The model camps, even if they are sold to the producers, are likely to degenerate. Health and welfare conditions will grow worse again. Child labor, nowhere abolished, will flourish as never before. By eliminating the Extension Service to migrant workers and the farmers, we are jeopardizing one of the most important factors in agricultural production at a moment when food is as necessary for peace as it was for war.

In the light of this national catastrophe, the cooperative efforts made by the New York State authorities to create orderly conditions in the harvesting of its crops are of the greatest importance. Its Interdepartmental Committee on Migrant Camps, formed five years ago, is developing a comprehensive program, as intelligent as it is humane. But its achievements only serve to emphasize the fact that no State can successfully handle the migratory problem single-handed. Duplication, waste and inefficiency, with all the human misery which they entail, are bound to result unless the efforts of the separate States are linked together as they were during the war by a Federal program.

It is necessary to visualize the main streams of migratory labor, their extent and widely different characteristics, before the complexity of the problem can be appreciated, and the reasons why no State can find an independent and permanent solution.

On the East Coast, when the crops have been harvested in Florida and other States, some 20,000 to 25,000 citizens of those States, largely Negroes, are forced to seek employment by following the crops, as they ripen in Georgia, South and North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York and Maine. A few Negroes from other Southeastern States join the procession as well as the families of coal miners from Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Tennessee. The first major stop is North Carolina, when the beans and potatoes are ready for harvest. The peak influx in New York comes the latter part of June, followed by another wave in September.

Trucks Roll Day and Night

Some 5000 of these workers come in their own cars, many of them going directly to some farm where they are sure of steady employment. But the bulk are collected in groups varying from a truckload to several hundreds, by a crew leader who owns the means of transportation. The trucks roll day and night, stopping only in isolated spots where the passengers can relieve themselves in the bushes. The crew leader does not risk stopping in the Negro districts of cities for food or sleep, as his crew, attracted by the bright lights, might disappear.

The hardships of this journey must be seen to be appreciated. Tiny babies, small children, adults are jammed together sleeping on side benches of the trucks or on the floor. Accidents occur if the crew leader has no assistant to spell him at the wheel. Food and drinking water are hard to come by, as no roadside restaurant welcomes the sudden influx of hundreds of Negro customers. The first stop may involve three, four or more days of travel, depending on the crew leader's judgment.

"It is inhuman to expect the migrants to live, sleep and eat in their trucks day after day, with no chance to stop and rest," said Merle Stout, Federal farm labor agent. "Greatly needed on the East Coast are rest centers such as Texas has constructed for the migrant workers. These centers should be a day's travel apart. Three or four of them would be sufficient if they are rightly placed. The crew leaders should be sounded out as to the best sites, as it would be a pity to locate them badly and find that they were not used. We have never made enough effort to study the wants of these people, but the rest center would be an obvious boon to all of them."

Four separate streams of American workers of Mexican origin, together with some Anglo-Saxons, set out from Texas toward the cotton belt of the Mississippi, the varied crops of the North Central States, the grain fields of Kansas and the Dakotas, and toward the vast beet fields that lie east of the Rocky Mountains. Another major stream rolls toward the West Coast as far north as Washington. The Department of Agriculture estimates that 600,000 people are now involved in this yearly trek.

Crew Leader Rules 10-6-47

The crew leader finds work for his people where he can, usually contracts with the farmer for his group, pays his crew the prevailing wages if he is honest, or gets most of their money by various devices if he is a racketeer. Mon.

Undemocratic as the institution of the crew leader may be, he represents the only permanent security for his people as they wander from camp to camp. Many of them are excellent characters with a fatherly attitude toward their people. Many of them are exploiters. Yet no satisfactory substitute has been devised for bringing migrant labor to the farmer who is dependent upon it. The labor contractor, the only other link between producer and temporary farm hands, is admittedly more unsatisfactory. He is apt to be more unscrupulous than the crew leader because he has no loyalty to producer or worker and is mainly interested in the rakeoff he gets per head from employer, worker or both together.

With cars hard to come by, during and since the war, the crew leader who owns one or more trucks is more powerful than ever. Because migratory workers, their transportation, their chance to work, their whole sense of protection, depend upon this feudal institution, its interstate regulation, control and guidance are a matter of public responsibility, not only to protect the human beings involved, but to achieve a maximum efficiency in agricultural production.

(Tomorrow Mrs. Meyer tells why the United States should reduce seasonal labor to a minimum.)

Reduction of Migratory Labor Urged as Overall National Aim

Washington Post, Washington, D.C.

(Second of a Series)

By Agnes E. Meyer

Not until the need arose to increase agricultural production during the war years were our Federal and State governments fully aroused to the importance and the shameful neglect of the agricultural migrant. June

The Department of Agriculture, after five years of intelligent effort, has done a magnificent job of increasing production through conservation of the workers' time and energy. The Farm Security Administration built 48 model camps in different parts of the country, equipped with clinics, recreation halls and child care services; the Federal Farm Extension Service cooperated with State and county agricultural officials to insure better utilization of labor by coordinating the movements of the migrants with harvest dates.

From year to year the growing efficiency of the program was reflected in the State reports. In North Carolina, for example, the migrants last year worked 57 per cent, this year 84 per cent of the total days spent in that State. The methods used by the Extension Service will be clarified when I explain their repercussions in New York State. 10-7-47.

Labor Imported

In 1943 the Federal Government yielded to the demand of big growers for the importation of foreign labor from Mexico, Jamaica and the Bahamas to handle the increased war production. As the Federal Government had to make contracts with foreign governments for the transportation, health and working conditions of this labor, it was discovered that decent standards for the protection of seasonal agricultural workers were not impossible of attainment. It cost our Government about $250 to bring a foreign worker to this country and return him in good condition. The total cost of the foreign labor program from May, 1943, to December 31, 1947, was 84 million dollars. During the same period the Federal Government's extension program for the protection and utilization of our own migrant workers was only two million dollars.

Many of the officials involved in working out both programs agree that a more liberal expenditure of money in recruiting, routing and protecting domestic agricultural labor would have made these foreign importations unnecessary. It would have brought more permanent benefits to our own workers and agricultural production while saving the Government millions of dollars. But the experiment paid some dividends to our own migrants. The foreign labor program forced the cooperative endeavor of Federal, State and local officials as many different services for health, welfare and housing were called into the picture. It also educated the producers to the importance of cooperative endeavor as they were not allowed to make private contracts with the foreign governments. There still remain 1832 foreign laborers in New York scattered over 16 different counties. Throughout the Nation there are 33,562 such workers left in 36 different States. Of these 24,562 are Mexicans, half of whom are in California. This foreign labor has spoiled many growers as it was deposited at their doorsteps free of charge and without expenditure of effort on their part. Also it was out and out slave labor, which had to produce or suffer repatriation. As a result, there is a good deal of pressure from certain big interests to continue the foreign program. This is thoroughly unpatriotic, as utilization has become the real problem now that unemployment is begining to appear among the migrants. 10-2-47

Veterans Change Picture

What aggravated the whole problem is that our unbalanced economy is constantly increasing the migratory streams. More and more of our people are being starved off their small land holdings and forced through sheer poverty to leave home and take to the road to gain a mere subsistence. I saw these economic and psychological forces at work last year in east Kentucky. Before the war this population clung to the overworked mountain farms or went into the local mines. Now the returned veterans are unwilling to do either the one or the other.

"There is nothing to do in east Kentucky and too many people to do it," some of the men said to me. Two years ago for the first time 30,000 farmers left east Kentucky to work in the blue grass section of their own State or in the potato fields of New Jersey and Maine. This enforced exodus is taking place in most of our submarginal agricultural areas.

Our over-all aim must be the reduction of seasonal labor to a minimum if we are to stabilize our too-fluid civilization. For the evil effects of a migratory, rootless, homeless existence can readily be felt in the psychology that is typical of all migratory labor, whether agricultural or industrial, whether white or black, whether of Mexican or native American origin. When I first began traveling from camp to camp in New York State, I was surprised by the suspicious, inarticulate, aggressive yet defensive attitude of these Negroes, so unlike the usual outgoing gentle reasons for this unwholesome isolationism. On either side of us not 4 feet away were families. None of them ever to each other because they nobody. "The people who in houses think we are who know that they are deprived ive trailer for three silent in an attempt to solve the sciously by every community from s one end of our country to the oth- er. Make no mistake about it, they resent this bitterly. We cannot af- ford to continue our indifference toward these homeless wanderers as outcasts consciously and uncon- sive attitude of these Negroes, so expensive to a minimum of every basic American right of hours in an attempt to solve the quality of that race. Then suddenly vermin" was the explanation with my patience was rewarded. citizenship, educational opportu- nity, the possibility of self-help, migrant is treated like an and of the most elementary stand-

ards for healthful, constructive living. Tue. 10-7-47

Yet some migratory labor may always be necessary in our agricultural production. In New York State migratory workers are only 14 per cent of the total seasonal workers. Yet that percentage is vital to the large bean, potato and tomato crops that are easily planted and laboriously harvested. If migrants must continue to perform an essential service to the Nation's economy, they should not be obliged to sacrifice their economic security, and a decent standard of living. Yet that is the prospect they face once more now that they are to be deprived of the protection given them during the war by the Federal Extension Service. Tue. 10-7-47

USES Lacks Machinery

To be sure, the United States Employment Service has been given the future responsibility for recruitment and placement of farm labor. But this agency has no interstate machinery. It has no trained personnel and no field workers that know the ever-changing farm problems or the eccentricities of migrant psychology. Nor has the United States Employment Service any legal authority to carry on the welfare measures of the Extension Service, its educational program on housing and rest centers, its medical services, child care and nursery schools. In most of the agricultural areas the United States Employment Service has but one office to four or five counties to replace the network of Federal-State-county officials of the Extension Service, its information scouts, county agents, and liaison farm labor assistants whom the migrants have learned to know and trust. It took the Extension Service three years of hard work, scientific research and practical experimentation before its program clicked. The United States Employment Service with its industrially minded office workers, its jealousy of State autonomy, its inability to keep in touch with the kaleidoscope changes of weather, harvest dates and fluid labor supply, cannot do otherwise than fail in a problem it is not equipped to meet.

That is why the achievements as well as the limitations and failures of the New York State program for the routing and protection of migrant workers are of Nation-wide interest and significance.

(Tomorrow Mrs. Meyer tells what New York State is doing to meet the problem of migrant workers.)

Migrant Labor

Wed. 10-8-47

By Agnes E. Meyer

N. Y. Helps Workers Help Selves

Post, Washington D.C.

(Third of a Series)

"In New York State, we are not merely trying to do things *for* the migrant workers. Chiefly, we are helping them to help themselves," said Dr. T. N. Hurd, chairman of the State Interdepartment Committee on Migrant Camps which I attended in Albany.

"Legislation and force are not the best tools," he continued. "Education and cooperation are the only proper methods, as all lasting improvements will have to be made by the farmers and the workers. In some cases compulsion may be necessary and the legislative power to use it as a last resort must exist. Only in one case have we been obliged to threaten to close down a camp for deliberate violations of our sanitary code. But the solution of the migrant workers' problem lies not only in providing satisfactory housing, welfare and health protection. Any real solution lies in the improvement of their economic and social life. Therefore the educational approach is the most satisfactory. It may be a slow process but in the long run it will be sound."

Production Increased 10-8-47

Even during the war, New York's farm labor program was characterized by cooperation rather than legal duress—cooperation between Federal and State governmental agencies and farmers, between food processors and farmers. The effectiveness of this democratic approach was demonstrated by a constantly rising total tonnage of food produced on New York farms for the past five years.

Since the passing of the war emergency, emphasis has been put by Dr. Hurd's committee on replacing the subsidized emergency farm labor program with a State cooperative program which will enable farmers to handle their labor requirements competently and independently.

Hard-Hitting Team

Can this be done on a State basis when the disappearance of the Federal Extension Service on December 31 marks the end of the interstate program for recruitment, routing and effective utilization of migrant workers?

What I saw of the excellent results achieved by New York State's farm labor program is proof that its hard-hitting team of Government agencies can go far to solve agricultural labor problems.

The first day of my tour began in Buffalo at 5:30 a. m. to inspect the day-haul which leaves that city for surrounding farms every day. Over 1000 workers found their trucks in orderly fashion. About three fourths of them were high school pupils recruited through a joint campaign conducted on a State-wide basis by the Extension Service and the public school administrators. None of these youngsters was under 14, as all the officials concerned have insisted upon enforcement of the child labor law. Last year 75,870 day-haul workers in New York State were checked by 25 day-haul assistants. This year the number has been greatly increased.

In a highly populated State like New York, the day-haul is important as 90 per cent of the fruits and vegetables are within a 50-mile range of the New York Central tracks and 80 per cent within a 25-mile range. The total day-haul and other local year-round residents now provide at least three times as much labor as the migrants. 10-8-47

Turn to Migrahts Again

It is indicative, however, that Erie County, where industry is in sharp competition for labor, the farmers are again turning to migrants as they have no great confidence in the permanence of the day-haul system now that the war is over. Another labor source, much used in Erie County and now endangered, is the so-called family system. This is a system whereby the wives of city industrial workers move into the private labor camps of producers with all of their children while the man of the family remains on his job in the city. I saw two farms that harvest all their crops with such labor. On the one, 16 mothers had an average of four children, of whom 20 per cent were under 14. On the other, 30 per cent were under 14. In the many farms in Erie County working less than 10 people, the average of under-age children is said to be even higher. One mother told me her three children, aged 12, 8 and 6, at the height of the bean season can earn as much as $30 on a good day. The present New York child labor law prohibiting the employment of youth under 14 has been on the books since 1928. As in other States, little or no attempt has been made to enforce it.

Farmers who have for years depended upon this family system for the harvesting of their crops have recently been reminded by a State Department of Labor bulletin that they are breaking the law. The State authorities have countenanced agricultural child labor for years even before the war. They now feel that they can no longer afford to ignore their own statutes and that it may be necessary to "crack down" on offenders. As the proportion of illegal employment among youth workers in the field in 1946 was 23 per cent in the Hudson Valley, 30 per cent in the western area, and 37½ per cent in the central area, enforcement of the child labor law would undoubtedly create a crisis for many New York producers, and necessitate, at least temporarily, a greater need for migrant workers. The elimination of foreign labor will also accelerate the need for native migrants in New York, Michigan, Connecticut, Illinois, Idaho and especially in California, where most of the remaining foreigners are employed.

(Tomorrow Mrs. Meyer tells of New York's Farm Labor Cooperatives.)

Migrant Labor

Cooperative Camps Succeed in N. Y.

(Fourth of a Series)

By Agnes E. Meyer

During the war the bean acreage increased in Erie County, N. Y., 125%, and the over-all increase in canning crops was 54%. As the farmers are trying to maintain this production, their permanent source of legal labor is a critical problem, but none of them, not even those with a large child labor force, seemed worried about the outcome. Having met the war crisis with State and Federal help, they have confidence in the future.

But with the obvious need for more Southern labor, there is at present but one cooperative migrant worker camp in Erie County. It was originally built at Brant by the Federal Farm Security Administration. Now it has been taken over by Erie County Farm Labor Cooperative with an active membership of 55 farmers.

These farm labor cooperatives have been organized throughout the State with the encouragement, assistance and guidance of the Extension Service to build and sponsor labor housing, to compute total labor requirements, consolidate contracting procedures and generally take over their own labor problems when the Federal Extension Service drops out of the picture. Nobody has much confidence that these "Coops" can stick together when the support given them by the Extension Service disappears.

Has Excellent Facilities

The camp at Brant has the excellent facilities typical of Federal standards, well constructed cabins, cook shacks, shower baths and laundry facilities. A good commissary with prevailing prices is run by the camp manager rather than the crew leader. Rent per cabin is $1 a week.

Neither workers nor crew leaders seemed to me of the dependable type. The camp manager cheerfully agreed with me, though the quality of the labor he gets is his chief responsibility to his employers. One gang he picked off the road had just left without warning, taking extra workers with them as well as the camp blankets. When I asked another crew leader why they had left, he replied: "Well, you know, they just leave sometime, all the time."

This irresponsibility is deeply ingrained in a large proportion of migratory labor whether black or white. It is exactly what we must expect from people who have never had civic responsibilities, steady work, educational discipline or any private property aside from the few possessions they carry with them. Will the New York State farmers have either the time or the patience to cope successfully with such labor when the Federal machinery disappears?

Workers Dissatisfied

This year, moreover, the workers left Florida in a dissatisfied frame of mind because three successive crop failures from frost, floods and drought had exhausted their resources. They were further discouraged by a poor succession of crops in all Eastern States, also due to erratic weather conditions, which complicated the migratory problem for growers and Government officials. Like this first camp at Brant, the 30-odd others I visited in some 20 counties showed the results achieved through the cooperative endeavors of the eight State agencies—labor, agriculture, health, welfare, education, police, youth commission and extension services—that have pooled their work through the State Interdepartmental Committee on Migrant Camps.

Came From Intensive Study

This committee resulted from an intensive study of migratory problems undertaken by a special war-time group appointed by Governor Dewey for that purpose in 1942. Officially, the commissioners of

Its recommendations are always worked out in cooperation with the Association of New York State Canners or with the Conference of migratory problem Board of Farm Organizations, thus enlisting their participation in development of the program.

The first act of this committee was to rewrite chapter 1 of the sanitary code to establish minimum requirements as to housing and sanitation and fix responsibility for maintenance of satisfactory conditions in all migrant camps.

sions that ensue have proved of great educational value to these growers and has gained their support for proposals which they violently opposed two or three years ago. In 1946 the State Legislature passed a bill which gives teeth to the enforcement of the housing and sanitary code. But the committee has been obliged to crack down only once upon a recalcitrant

(Tomorrow Mrs. Meyer tells of results achieved in migrant workers' camps.)

Migrants' Condition Improved By Efforts of N. Y. Committee

Post. Washington D.C.

(Fifth of a Series)

Fri.—10-10-47 By Agnes E. Meyer

In 1945 the New York State Interdepartmental Committee recommended that the vehicle and traffic law be amended as to transportation of persons by truck.

A crew leader bringing migrant workers into New York State is obliged to register his vehicles at the nearest traffic bureau. This makes listing of all crew leaders and workers possible, and therefore better control of their movements. 10-10-47

Interstate control would be greatly improved if there were a law requiring licensing of all crew-leaders either with the Department of Agriculture or with the Department of Labor.

The law now requires that seats for two thirds of the passengers must be provided in every vehicle and that it be closed at the end by a high endgate. The police have done an excellent job of enforcing these requirements. None of the serious accidents which used to be frequent, has occurred in New York in the past two years.

Improvements Achieved

Here are some of the major results which the Interdepartmental Committee has achieved within the camps. The water supply is safe and adequate, as is the sewage disposal. The quality of housing has improved everywhere. Covered receptacles are mandatory for garbage disposal. Toilet facilities, usually privies, are good, many camps using flush toilets.

Showers have hot and cold running water. Ventilation has been improved and overcrowding reduced. Bad physical conditions still exist, especially in some of the private camps, as infringements of the law are difficult to establish, and moral persuasion is a slow process.

Public health nurses visit each camp at least once a week to check all newcomers for communicable diseases, to hold health clinics for children at the nursery schools and for prenatal cases, and give service to tuberculosis and V. D. patients.

Physicians and nurses make a complete physical examination of all children in the child care centers. They also render first aid, conduct an immunization program for children and arrange for T. B. chest pictures as well as for hospitalization when necessary. Health education programs, including moving pictures, lectures, posters and leaflets, are given at intervals in every camp. All of this work for adults has to be done in the evening when the workers are in camp. Fri. 10-10-47

Health Safeguarded

In the three counties of Madison, Oneida and Herkimer, for example, there are six full-time nurses for 3000 migrants. These counties, in addition to the usual services, have a bus V. D. clinic that goes to camps where local facilities are inadequate. In the regular community programs there is but one public health nurse for every 5000 inhabitants. Thus the State Department of Health, through its district offices, is now providing better health services to migrant workers than are available to the year-round population.

The 19 child nursery projects, with a total enrollment of 850, are located sometimes within the camp, sometimes at strategic points where they can serve five or six different camps. With the exception of the Brant Center, operated by the Catholic Charities of Buffalo for 125 children, the Centers are financed jointly by the State Youth Commission, which pays 85 per cent of the cost, and the State Federation of Canners and Growers, which pays 11 per cent.

Parents pay $1.50 per week for the child's food, or about 4 per cent. In addition to a substantial hot lunch, the children get fruit juices and cod liver oil daily. Licensing and inspection of the child care centers is under the State Department of Social Welfare.

They are not used as much as they might be, which is not surprising. The children from 6 to 14 are seldom there. Nor have most of these nurseries a suitable program for these older boys and girls. In one camp where there were 80 children under 12, only 28 were enrolled in the nursery. The others were picking beans.

Protection For Children

"Is it not better that the 12 and 13 year old boys and girls be out in the fields working with their parents than fooling around the camps and getting into mischiefs?" asked many a worried official.

As it will be impossible to keep the youngsters of this age, needed as they are for the support of the family, out of the fields, it is a moot question whether the minimum age for agricultural work should not be lowered to 12 or 13.

Farmers, State officials and social workers agree that such a law could be strictly enforced, thus giving real protection to the very young children who are now putting in long hours of arduous labor from Texas to Maine and from New York to California.

As I saw hominy grits and bacon sizzling on most of the cook stoves in the migrant worker camps, the nutritional instructions given the mothers by the nursery school teachers is of great value, as well as the education in general care.

The poverty of equipment in some of the nurseries makes one wonder why the nearby communities could not help out with sand boxes and other needed facilities.

Here is an obvious service for local welfare agencies or women's clubs, but the only indication of friendliness I encountered in New York State was a not wholly disinterested picnic given the migrant workers in two counties by the local merchants.

(Tomorrow Mrs. Meyer tells where the migrant problem should be attacked.)

were made, this year 44, none of them major criminal offenses.

(Tomorrow Mrs. Meyer tells where the migrant problem should be attacked.)

renewal of warm friendships made in previous years with the local youngsters. But the very intelligent Negro manager of this camp, F. H. Townsend, has no illusions about the effects of this kind of life on the young. "Their education is bound to be sketchy" he said, "the pride of belonging to a community is denied them and the importance of citizenship cannot be instilled in them. The congestion in the camps creates disturbances and immorality. When workers come into the camps as man and wife, we can't ask for marriage certificates, and the children see everything that goes on. Before we can ever be just to these migrants, before our country can fully develop its human resources, our economy will have to provide a life by which more people can stay put."

Excellent Example

Kings Ferry is an excellent example of the very considerable improvements brought about in migrant camps by the cooperative endeavors of the New York State Interdepartmental Committee. A few years ago it was the scene of murders, knifing, drinking, gambling and general turmoil. The moral and physical conditions horrified the local citizens. Now it is an orderly camp hous workers, with four dining kitchens and commissarie aged for each of the four by their respective crew leaders.

The records of the State police who inspect all camps for safety, sanitation and type of population, reflect the progress of law and order among this year's 15,000 migrants. Last year 260 arrests

Permanent Residents Wary About Treating Inhabitants of Migrant Camps Too Well

Washington Post. Washington D.C.

(Sixth of a Series)

By Agnes E. Meyer

As a rule, both the nearby rural towns and the city people are at a loss what to do about the inhabitants of the migrant camps. When they are not actively hostile, they fail to grasp the importance of these workers to their very existence. Yet these communities are often wholly dependent upon the adjacent agriculture. An acute fear exists among the permanent residents that if they treat the migrants too well, they will settle down permanently and become both a relief and a racial problem after the crops have been harvested.

If only the women in comfortable homes could understand how hard is the life of these migrant mothers! All over the country, whether they be Negroes, Mexican-Americans or Anglos, as the native stock is called, they face the same ordeals. On the journey in close-packed trucks, they must care for the babies, the helpless grandparents who cannot be left at home alone, the children who sicken because they cannot stand the bad diets or polluted water supplies. I shall never forget a scene in one miserable Texas cabin where some 30 people, young and old, sat in silent melancholy around the doll-like body of a child in an elaborate coffin. They had sacrificed their savings and two days pay to celebrate death, as if it were their only means of realizing the value and the sacredness of life. 10-11-47

Rise Before Dawn

In the New York camps the mothers rise before dawn to prepare breakfast and get the whole family ready for the long day's toil. They work with the men in the fields until sundown. Yet when they come home, they have to cook, wash clothes and clean the overcrowded cabins. After the return from work I could hear them trying to surmount the disorder of their existence. The husbands are implored to help with the chores, usually in vain; the children are urged to wash the heavy soil from hands and faces before eating and to say their prayers before going to bed. In spite of all the efforts being made, four or five children of both sexes and all ages still live in one room with their parents. This to be sure no longer shocks me as it used to, now that I have seen six to 12 people living in a single room in some of our big cities.

Certainly the antiquated planning used in these camps is no help to the women. The best camps have a two-burner gas or electric stove in the cabins but usually the communal cook shacks, which all the women hate, the showers, the laundries and dining rooms are scattered about without consideration for efficiency. Realizing this, the State Extension Service has engaged Mrs. Esther McAllister, a specialist in home economics with much experience among low income groups, to study these migrant families and decide what can be done to improve camp planning, to simplify living conditions and protect the development of the unfortunate children.

Appreciate Program

Many of the mothers I interviewed in New York already show keen appreciation of the health, welfare and nutrition programs. They take pride in sending their children to the nursery school with faces and starched pinafores glistening with cleanliness.

It is a great mistake to think these migrants are stupid just because they are timid and inarticulate. So many of the illiterate parents now realize the importance of education for their children, that in camp after camp I found them leaving to arrive back home in Florida for the opening day in school. At Kings Ferry Camp in Cayuga County, the migrant children have been made so welcome in the local school, both by teachers and pupils, that the little colored children were waiting impatiently for the opening day and a

N.Y. Migrant Camps Far From Perfect But Many Are as Decent as Overcrowding Permits

Post Washington D.C. Sun. 10-12-47

(Last of a Series)

By Agnes E. Meyer

I must not give the impression that New York State has reached anything remotely resembling perfection in the care of migrant workers. To visit these camps, one after the other, day after day, is "to see sad pageants of men's miseries."

The camps such as Kings Ferry belonging to local farm labor cooperatives, though not equally well managed, are on the whole as decent as small, overcrowded shacks can be. A few of the private camps shown me by my guides, Merle Stout, Federal farm labor agent, and S. M. Vaughan, assistant State farm labor supervisor, are disgracefully neglected by their owners who still look upon their Negro workers as cattle. In such camps the grower pays the price of his indifference, for the workers go in and out daily and may desert him just as his crop ripens. 12-10-47

On the other hand, the best camps also belong to private people, farmers who are themselves superior human beings and good businessmen. On these farms, the housing and facilities are not necessarily better than those of the Farm Labor Cooperatives. But the crew leaders are reliable men, carefully selected by the farmer himself. The same workers return year after year, and the turnover on these places is less than 10 per cent. They are seasonal rather than migrant workers, as the crew leader brings them directly from Florida without picking up other work. It is the general atmosphere which is different in such camps because the workers feel secure, and have a friendly relationship with their employer. They are happier, more spontaneous, less fearful of strangers and of each other.

Blodgett Camp Outstanding

Though I saw several of these successful operations, the outstanding large one is that of Stephan W. Blodgett in Fishkill, whose experiences are of general value since he hsa employed Southern labor for the last 11 years.

His migrant camp is interesting as an example of what a progressive, large-scale grower can achieve with migrant labor if he treats them with intelligence and consideration. Brookland Farms cultivates 1050 acres of cash crops, principally beans. When Mr. Blodgett began his migrant program, the first five years were a succession of difficulties. Each year brought a different group of workers as the result of helter-skelter recruiting. Riots and disagreements caused dissatisfaction in the camp. Many of the better workers left. Mr. Blodgett was often the victim of labor-contracting racketeers. Confusion reigned. Sun. 12-10-47

Then Mr. Blodgett discovered, as crew leader, a traveling colored evangelist, of good appearance and sturdy character, who brings his whole congregation with him year after year. In talking with his people during the winter he continually refers to the coming season at Brookland Farms, reports on crop conditions, and generally reminds his parishoners that they are expected to return there. His people live in three communities and for the most part own their own farms or work on a nearby lake project. They travel straight through to Fishkill and back to Florida. They are high-class colored people, honest and very religious.

Drinkers, Gamblers Ousted

When these workers reach the North, they are under the charge of their colored preacher as crew leader. He is the camp manager and is in charge of their work in the bean fields as well. He is paid $60 a week from February to November. Each week the payroll is made up by family groups and given to the colored preacher to distribute to his people. Most of the workers average $40 for a five-day week. This year there are 275 migrants in this camp, of whom 62 are children.

No drinking or gambling is permitted on the premises and any person found guilty of these misdemeanors is permanently evicted. Mr. Blodgett has just built a church for his workers where they hold a Sunday service and two additional services weekly. Janitors are hired to keep the common rooms, toilets, showers, etc., clean, while each family is responsible for the cleanliness of its own room. A local storekeeper was encouraged to establish a branch on the premises, without charge. Mr. Blodgett receives no commission of any kind from the enterprise, but insists that the prices charged must be the same as the prevailing ones in the nearby village of Fishkill.

The workers live in family groups in 150 rooms located in three separate camps (mostly converted barns). The number of rooms varies with the size of the family. There are no charges for accommodations. Stoves, cots, mattresses and tables are provided, and each family cooks in its own room. There are convenient outlets with hot and cold running water throughout the buildings. A mass ice box is provided in the central store. There are separate laundry and shower houses and toilets for the men and women. Mr. Blodgett provides a freight car to and from Florida for his workers' baggage and transports all the people (except the few who have cars) in his trucks. Free evening clinics under a registered nurse are provided to safeguard the workers' health. The nurse is empowered to call the doctor whenever necessary. Any hospital expenses are also paid for the workers by Mr. Blodgett.

Nurse Runs Child Center

1946 was the first year in which Mr. Blodgett operated a child care center. It is supervised by a registered nurse who has four colored girls to assist her and a cook for the hot meal the children are served at noon. A nursery room was provided where mothers could leave their babies and where small children could nap. Mr. Blodgett goes to his nursery every day to see to it that no children under 14 are working in the fields, but he agrees with many other people that 12 is a more practical minimum age for agricultural working papers.

Mr. Blodgett told me he adopted most of these practices because they proved to be good business. He feels satisfied with his present labor supply and plans to continue a similar arrangement with whatever improvements seem advisable. He feels that it would be absolutely impossible to secure such workers from any local source. Until this year, when his child care center became a part of the overall State program, Mr. Blodgett has accepted no Government aid for recruitment and care of his labor. "The cost of my camp," he concluded, "is written off from year to year. If you can't get enough profit out of a farm operation to run it on a proper basis, it's best to stay out of it. If I had to make money by putting people in terrible housing and forcing them to live a substandard existence, I'd stay out of farming." Sun. 12-10-47

Indorses Extension Program

This method of direct recruiting through a reliable crew leader who returns year after year with the same workers is a solution of the farm labor problem that is practical only for the most experienced operators. Mr. Blodgett is as apprehensive as anyone else about the discontinuance of the Federal extension program, although he, himself, no longer needs its services. Like the New York officials who have encouraged the farm labor cooperatives, he fears the individual farmer is far too busy to continue the co-ops without the assistance of the extension program. Nor can they hire their own agents to go to Florida to recruit, since this is illegal.

Nobody knows how in the future the average farmer can be sure of enough migrant help at the right time. The flow of these workers from State to State will be left to chance once more, after the cooperation along the Coast, the exchange of information on whereabouts and size of crews, the whole elaborate system of contacts between the area of supply and the area of need disintegrates. To maintain and develop this essential system of interstate cooperation the United States Employment Service, which takes over the farm labor program on January 1, has neither the personnel nor the experience and elasticity of structure. Thus no matter how well New York or any other State handles its local problem, the hoarding of labor by anxious farmers will reappear, and its distribution will again become a matter of accident. Workers will lose more time. Crops will be plowed under for lack of harvesters. Even in New York State, in spite of its promising local program, the maintenance of agricultural production will be difficult if not impossible.

Solution Lies at Source

This will mean hardship for the country and for the farmer but even greater hardship for the migrants. New harvesting machinery —a mechanical bean picker is already being developed—together with legal sources of local labor, will eventually solve the problem of the producers. Then, as the need for migrant labor decreases, we shall be forced to realize that the migratory problem can be ultimately solved—not in the States, like New York or California, that now depend upon that labor—but in the areas where desperate poverty forces the population off the land. This pressure swells not only the agricultural migratory streams but crowds the Negro slums to overflowing in all of our Northern and Western cities. It can be checked or eliminated only if Federal aid to education, health and welfare improves living standards, earning capacity and employment opportunities throughout the Southern sources of migration from the rich muck land of Florida to the arid mountains of New Mexico.

1c 1947

GRAPES OF WRATH

New Republic
New York, N.Y. 11-3-47-mon

The danger. Last week a group of individuals meeting in Washington, headed by Dr. Paul Taylor, authority on agricultural labor, set up the National Citizens 11-3-47 mon
Council on Migrant Labor to try to do New Republic
something about the growing migrant-labor problem. According to Taylor, conditions in some areas, such as Central Valley, California, promise to become as bad as they were when Steinbeck wrote *The Grapes of Wrath* (the *NR*, October 27). New Republic

The council hopes to obtain for migrants protection of wage laws, social-security benefits and decent housing. It also hopes to bring about the sale of the more than 100 labor camps to public authorities rather than to big farmers who will use them to exploit labor.

Under the law enacted by Congress, it is required that all federal labor camps be disposed of by the end of this year. New York, N.Y.

National Citizens Council on Migrant Labor

Negro Testifies Against Four In Peonage Case

lc The News Birmingham Ala
Wed. 1-8-47

TUSCALOOSA, Ala., Jan. 8—(AP)—Willie F. Will, 26-year-old Negro, was to take the stand today to testify in a Federal Court hearing of peonage charges against four Reform, Ala., men accused of holding him in involuntary servitude.

The four, one a member of the Alabama House of Representatives, pleaded innocent of the charges at the start of the trial yesterday before Federal Judge Seybourne Lynne. They were indicted last September and released under $1,000 bond each.

The defendants are R. Bruce Doughty, former state senator who was elected to the lower house of the State Legislature last November; his brother, Eddie Lawton Doughty; William Ambrose and James Vernie Sanders, all of Reform.

Testimony by Will's brother, two physicians and several character witnesses for the defendants was taken yesterday.

Defense Atty. Reuben H. Wright told the court he would seek to prove that Willie had sold an automobile on which R. Bruce Doughty held a mortgage, had left Reform, and later been returned from Cordova on a warrant issued in Probate Court. He said Doughty had engaged in a fight with Willie when the latter made insulting remarks.

Katie Mae Peoples, Willie's mother, testified that she had offered R. Bruce Doughty $110 in payment of a debt owed by her son and that Doughty refused the money.

Dr. A. L. Ashcraft, Reform, and Dr. James Andrews, Cordova, testified they treated Willie in April for bruises on the head and body.

Police Chief Griffin Davidson, of Cordova, told the court that three men, including Ambrose and Sanders, brought a warrant to him April 5 and that they later left with Willie.

The News Birmingham Ala

Character witnesses who appeared to testify for the defendants included retiring Lt. Gov. Handy Ellis and retiring State Sen. James A. Simpson, of Birmingham.

4 Plead Innocent In Peonage Count

The Advertiser Montgomery Ala

TUSCALOOSA, ALA., Jan. 7.—(AP)—Four Pickens County men, including a member of the Alabama House of Representatives, pleaded innocent today at the start of their trial on charges they violated peonage laws through holding a 26-year-old Negro man in physical custody against his will.

lc Wed. 1-8-47

The four, indicted last September, are R. Bruce Doughty, former state senator who was elected to the lower house of the State Legislature, last November; his brother, Eddie Lawton Doughty; William Ambrose and James Vernie Sanders, all of Reform.

They are being tried in a group before a jury in Federal Judge Seybourne Lynne's court.

Defense Atty. Reuben H. Wright told the jury he intended to show that the Negro, Willie F. Will, had sold an automobile on which R. Bruce Doughty had a mortgage, and was later brought back to Reform from Cordova on a warrant issued in probate court.

Katie Mae Peoples, identified as Will's mother, testified she offered R. Bruce Doughty $110 in payment of a debt owed by her son and that Doughty refused the money.

wed. 1-8-47

Two physicians took the stand to testify they examined Will in April and found him in a bruised condition. Defense Atty. Wright told the court that Will engaged in a fight with R. Bruce Doughty.

Several character witnesses appeared to testify for the defendants, including retiring Lieut. Gov. Handy Ellis and retiring State Senator James A. Simpson.

The indictments charged the four had Will forcibly removed from Cordova to Reform and kept him in physical custody on grounds he owed R. Bruce Doughty a sum of money.

Four Alabama Men Acquitted Of Peonage

The News Birmingham Ala.

TUSCALOOSA, Ala., Jan. 9—(AP)—Four Reform, Ala., men, including a member of the Alabama House of Representatives, stood acquitted today of peonage charges alleging they conspired to hold a 26-year-old Negro man in involuntary servitude because of a debt.

Thurs. 1-9-47

A Federal Court jury returned a verdict for the defendants last night after deliberating 40 minutes.

The men, who were indicated last September, are R. Bruce Doughty, former state senator who was elected to the Lower House in November; his counsin, Eddie Lawton Doughty; William Ambrose and James Vernie Sanders.

Thurs. 1-9-47

Rep. Doughty yesterday testified that he struck Willie F. Will, the Negro involved, after the latter picked up a plow point and advanced on him in a threatening manner. Will told the court earlier that Doughty beat him because of debt he owed the legislator.

Doughty also denied that Will's mother, Katie Mae Peoples, offered him $110 in settlement of the debt.

Free 4 Whites Held On Peonage Charge

Ill.
CHICAGO DEFENDER

TUSCALOOSA, Ala.—A member of the Alabama legislature and three others, accused in the Reform, Ala., peonage case of having held a farmer in involuntary servitude for a debt, were freed here last Wednesday.

lc Ill.

Willie F. Will, the complainant, testified that Bruce Doughty, former State Senator elected to the House this last November, beat him because of the debt. Doughty and three others were charged with moving Will from one district to another and of forcing him to work out the amount owed.

SAT.

The others acquitted were Doughty's cousin, Eddie Lawton Doughty; William Ambrose and James Vernie Sanders.

1-18-47

lc 1947

Peonage (California)

FORCE CONTRACTOR TO DROP PEONAGE OF PUERTO RICANS

Daily Workers Newspaper, N.Y.

By Federated Press

SAN DIEGO, Cal., April 1.—Odell L. Barnson, labor contractor, dreamed about making his millions by importing several thousand Puerto Ricans from New York to work under conditions of virtual peonage. He was rudely awakened to find out that importing the first 29 cost him $3,300—$2,000 for the trip west and $1,300 for the return trip.

He agreed to pay their return trip rather than face prosecution for violating the state labor law and a law against bringing indigents into the state. The Puerto Ricans threatened to bring action after discovering that they had to give half of their 60 cents hourly wages to pay Barnson $125 for employment agency fees, meals and transportation to the coast.

When the Puerto Ricans accepted the jobs in New York they were told nothing about this fee. They were merely told that in sunny California they would get 60 cents an hour for farm work, with good housing and excellent meals for $1.30 a day.

Upon arrival there some were taken to the Borego valley desert and others to citrus groves. Upon learning of the conditions, those sent to the Borego camp refused to work and demanded to be returned to New York. They were refused food all day and shipped back to San Diego late at night.

The citrus pickers worked one day and were laid off because of rain. The money they had earned was all kept by the employers for board. They also asked to be returned to New York. Threatened with a criminal complaint, Barnson, who did not even have a state license as a labor contractor, agreed to pay their return fares.

Peonage Situation Found Worse Than Anticipated

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

NEW YORK— Contrary to denials, the peonage situation in the deep south is "even worse than anticipated", so reported Rowland Watts, National Secretary of the Workers Defense League, upon returning from a special trip to Mississippi in connection with the League's anti-peonage campaign.

Watts investigated in particular the case described by the WDL in its fund appeal of a Negro who was kicked, later beaten and finally flogged almost to death when he attempted to leave a plantation for a better job. To protect the victim, his name cannot be revealed at this time. Thurs. 10-16-47

An atmosphere of extreme fear reigns in the area as a result of recent discovery of the decapitated body of a Negro veteran by a roadside. Daily World

The situaton in an adjoining, Alabama county is equally bad, Watts said. An additional investigatior has been added to the WDL staff now probing peonage. Atlanta, Ga.

Meanwhile, support for the league's anti-peonage campaign came from California where 11 Los Angeles unionists and civic leaders urged full support of the drive. They are Mrs. Helen Beardsley of the American Civil Liberties Union, J. Frank Burke, owner of Station KFVD, Oliver Carlson, publist. Rev. Owen Geer of the Vermont Square Methodist Church Rev. Allan Hunter of the Mount Hollywood Congregational Church, Paul Johnson of the Amercan Friends Service Committee Leonard Levy of the United Retail Wholesale & Department Store Employes, Louis Levy of the Intl. Ladies Garment Workers Union, Zane Meckler of the Jewish Labor Committee, Loren Miller of the Nat'l Ass'n for Advancement of Colored People and Harry Stillman of the Textile Workers Union.

PEONAGE CHARGE BROUGHT AGAINST INDIANA FARMER

(lc Atlanta Daily World, Ga.
9-18-47

CINCINNATI — (ANP) — Jessie Davis of this city, informed the local branch of the NAACP last week that his wife, Mrs. Ona Davis, is being held in involuntary servitude by Robert W. Koble on a farm outside Valpariso, Ind. Davis said that he and his wife formerly worked on the farm but left when Koble forced them, at gun point, to board a taxi and leave all their personal belongings behind. The couple then came to Cincinnati. Atlanta, Ga.

Davis, a native of Tennessee, said that his wife, a native of Georgia, "believes everything white people tell her." He said his wife returned to Koble's farm one day while he was at work. When he tried to call her, he was told by Koble that she was not on his place. On September 8, Davis said that he had received a post card from Koble which said: "Ona has left me now. I don't know where she went, so please do not call or write anymore."

SHOOTING THREAT CLAIMED

On September 10, Davis claims that he had a woman, a friend of his wife, call her from Gary. He charges that his wife talked with the woman and told her that Koble threatened to shoot him should he trespass upon the farm.

Thurs.

NAACP Secretary Harold D. Snell commented, "If the charges are proved true, then Mrs. Davis is being deprived of her rights as guaranteed by the civil rights statute and if she is being compelled to work involuntarily, Koble is violating the 13th amendment. The N. A. A. C. P. will investigate to determine whether or not the charges are true and if so, Koble will be prosecuted vigorously."

The assistant U. S. District attorney and the Gary and Hammond branches of the NAACP have been notified of the charges made by Davis.

Peonage Charge Lodged Against White Ind. Farmer

abpc American Baltimore, Md.
Sat.

CINCINNATI (ANP)—Jessie Davis last week told the NAACP that his wife, Mrs. Ona Davis, is being held in involuntary servitude by Robert W. Koble, white, on a farm outside of Valpariso, Ind. The assistant U.S. District attorney has been notified of the charges.
9-27-47

Davis said they formerly work-

Peonage Victim And Friend Who Aided Him

Journal & Guide Norfolk, Va.

Sat. 6-14-47

After allegedly spending 16 years in involuntary servitude on a white man's plantation near Baton Rouge, La., Waver Clifton, left, found himself a free man in Norfolk after traveling afoot and hitch-hiking since May 23, the date he ran out of the field where he was working with several other men and women. Clifton Duke, right, 1016 Mariner street, Norfolk who gave Waver lodging Saturday night, brought him to the Journal and Guide office Sunday where he told his story to a reporter.

Man Claims 16 Years Of Unpaid Service

Victim Escapes From Louisiana Farm; Worked Daily Under Guard

Journal & Guide Norfolk, Va.

NORFOLK—A victim of Louisiana's peonage system, according to his story, who spent 16 years in virtual slavery on a state plantation, told the Journal and Guide on Sunday of his flight to freedom three weeks ago and of his final arrival in the city Saturday morning. The 28-year-old worker, who can neither read nor write, said he traveled night and day sometimes thumbing a ride and stopping along the way at the homes of colored families for food and water.

Waver Clifton, who related his experiences under guard day and night, said he never had an opportunity to escape in the 16 years until Friday afternoon, May 23, when the guards happened not to be in sight in the field where he and other field hands were working. He grasped the opportunity to flee and by nightfall was at a safe distance from the farm, he said. Sat. 6-14-47

A resident of Alexandria, Pa., Waver said he was living with the Rev. Gistand Thomas, pastor of the local Baptist Church 16 years ago, when two white men came to the community seeking laborers for a white farmer near Baton Rouge, La. The men promised Waver, according to his story, two dollars a day and free transportation to the farm about five miles from Baton Rouge.

PARENTS DEAD

When Waver accepted this offer, he was about 12 years of age. Both of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Clifton, were dead, and he had been doing odd jobs at the stores in Alexandria to help earn a living. Waver said he could not recall the name of either of the two white men who came to town in the truck for farm laborers.

The alleged peonage victim said he worked for 16 years without leaving the plantation. His daily routine like that of over a score of other colored men and women on the plantation was from camp to work and back again at night. He said he worked from sun to sun and never received a penny for his labor. The only compensation ever received, he declared, was food, working clothes, a place to stay and medicine when necessary.

The men and women lived indiscriminately together in one large room at the camp site which was surrounded by a barbed wire fence and guarded day and night by men with pistols and shotguns. The women outnumbered the men at the camp, Waver said.

SEVERAL HUNDRED ACRES

Waver said the plantation covered several hundreds of acres and was under the supervision of Overseer Anderson. He said he could not recall the name of the plantation owner, but said his wife was called Fannie. Such crops as sugar cane, sweet and white potatoes, cotton, corn and other vegetables were raised with cotton and sugar as the main crops.

Waver said after he had been on the farm about four months he asked the farmer about the wages that had been promised him. His answer was that he didn't keep any money on the place and didn't have any, according to Waver who added that he got no promise afterwards of wages or other compensation. Sat. 6-14-47

The farm camp was about two miles from the home of the farmer, Waver said. The farm laborers were not allowed to leave the camp excepting for work at which time they were carried out in a large truck. When work time was over, they were all carried back to the camp under guards in the truck. While at work they were under guards with pistols and shotguns, Waver said.

LABORERS BEATEN

Waver said the guards often gave the laborers a beating using a leather strap. When asked why he was beaten, Waver said the guards were just "mean" and sometimes they used that method to hurry the men and women on their jobs.

If field workers had it hard when they were well, it was worse when they were sick, Waver reported. No physicians were allowed in the camp, he said. The overseers or guards would check with the men and women who were sick and go to town and buy medicine for them. No sick person was ever allowed to see a doctor in town, Waver said.

The lot of the women was even worse. According to Waver, women who became pregnant were given very little attention. They were allowed to stay in camp a few days before their confinement, but little else was done for their protection and benefit. Mothers were allowed to spend some time with their infant babies and to give some attention to them during the infant years, Waver said.

STOPPED IN JACKSON

After he got some distance from Baton Rouge, Waver said the first large town he passed through was Jackson, Miss., where he stopped only an hour. From there he kept traveling North passing through South and North Carolina before heading into Virginia.

Since he had never been to Norfolk and knew no one here, Waver trusted to luck to find some one who would offer him aid until he can get work. He fortunately met Clifton Duke, 1016 Mariner street, where he spent the night Saturday.

After listening to his story Mr. Duke accompanied Waver to the Journal and Guide office where he was interviewed. Sat. 6-14-47

Without money and clothes, Waver said he is anxious to get work and would be satisfied to be located in Norfolk. Waver has no close relatives, and has lost all connections with people whom he knew 16 years ago. His only sister was born dead, Waver said, and he has no brother.

Defense League Finds South's Peonage Worse Than Expected

Defender, Chicago, Ill.
Sat. 10-25-47

NEW YORK—Contrary to editorial denials by the Memphis Commercial Appeal, Howard chain newspaper, the peonage situation in the deep South is "even worse than anticipated." So reported Rowland Watts, national secretary of the Workers Defense League, upon returning from a special trip to Mississippi in connection with the league's anti-peonage campaign.

Watts investigated in particular the case described by the WDL in its fund appeal of a Negro who was kicked, later beaten and finally flogged almost to death when he attempted to leave a plantation for a better job. To protect the Negro, his name cannot be revealed at this time. Sat. 10-25-47

An atmosphere of extreme fear reigns in the area as a result of recent discovery of the decapitated body of a Negro veteran by a roadside.

The situation in an adjoining Alabama county is equally bad, Watts said. An additional investigator has been added to the WDL staff now probing peonage.

Meanwhile, support for the league's anti-peonage campaign came from California where 11 Los Angeles unionists and civic leaders publicly urged full support of the drive. They are Mrs. Helen Beardsley of the American Civil Liberties Union, J. Frank Burke, owner of Station KFVD, Oliver Carlson, publicist, Rev. Owen Geer of the Vermont Square Methodist Church, Rev. Allan Hunter of the Mount Hollywood Congregational Church, Paul Johnson of the American Friends Service Committee, Leonard Levy of the United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employes, Louis Levy of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, Zane Meckler of the Jewish Labor Committee, Loren Miller of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People and Harry Stillman of the Textile Workers Union.

Peonage by Partnership

Addressing a conference of anthracite coal miners, Thomas E. Larkin, "umpire of the anthracite board of conciliation", told the miners that the "operators (they are the owners, bosses) by and large accept the workings of the closed shop and the check-off."

Were a planter in Sumter county employing 50 negroes to be approached by 30 of them saying that they had voted that the other 20 must join with them and that he must not hire any other negro without the consent of themselves, the majority of the 50, further that he must take out a dollar a week from their wages and hand it over to their treasurer, and he consented, he would probably be prosecuted in federal court for violation of the peonage laws.

We have heard howls from the Northern "Liberals" and "Uplifters" about "peonage" in the South. They are believers in peonage, they think it righteous, they uphold it.

Whenever a laborer's pay envelope is pinched by his employer he is subjected to peonage, he is robbed of a part of his liberty as well as of his money.

The check-off is a conspiracy entered into between some of the laborers, they may be the majority, and the employer to oppress the minority.

No worker can consent to the check-off without confession that he is not a man to be trusted fully by his fellow-workers. It is admission that he might neglect to pay his dues if left to handle his own wages. It is equivalent to saying by the union, or the masters of it, that the union cannot be carried on by men entirely free and that they must have the cooperation of the employer in collecting dues else the union will fail.

Nor is it astonishing that many operators of coal mines and other industries willingly enter into the conspiracy, or partnership, with labor kings. Often it makes things easier for them. Dealing with free men might be embarrassing.

From the employer's point of view, something is to be said for peonage.

Southerner Sentenced In Civil Right Violation

By The United Press.

FLORENCE, S. C., Dec. 3—John E. Wilhelm of Hartsville, S. C., accused of holding a Negro worker in virtual bondage for almost a year, received a Federal prison sentence of a year and a day and a $500 fine today for violating the man's civil liberties.

Peonage and kidnapping charges against Wilhelm and his father, James F. Wilhelm, both prosperous farmers, were dropped after the younger man pleaded guilty to a charge of violating the civil liberties statute.

Evidence brought out at a hearing before District Judge J. Waites Waring showed that the Negro, James Dewitt, quit as a field hand on the Wilhelm farm in Darlington County about a year ago. The younger Wilhelm had Dewitt arrested for "violation of a labor contract," witnesses testified, but the Hartsville Magistrates' Court ruled such a pact illegal and Dewitt was freed.

Ten days later, however, it was charged, Wilhelm forced Dewitt to go back with him to the farm.

Civil Liberties Plea Accepted By U. S. Court

Victim Taken From Carolina Into Georgia

FLORENCE, S. C.— (NNPA) — John Elis Wilhelm, of Hartsville South Carolina, accused of holding a colored man in peonage for almost a year, was sentenced last Wednesday to a year and a day in a Federal penitentiary and fined $500 for violating the man's civil liberties.

Peonage and kidnaping charges Wilhelm and his father, James Fred Wilhelm, both prosperous farmers, were dropped after the younger man pleaded guilty to a charge of violating the civil liberties statute.

Evidence brought out a hearing before United States District Judge J. Waties Waring showed that the matter started in the early part of December, 1946, when two colored men, James DeWitt and Robert McBride, farm laborers, quit the big Wilhelm farm in Darlington County and obtained work elsewhere.

OBTAIN WARRANT

The elder Wilhelm obtained a warrant charging DeWitt and McBride with obtaining money under false pretenses by means of breaching labor contract under which they had obtained advances and were indebted to the Wilhelms.

The son visited the two men in the Hartsville jail and offered to drop the charges if they would agree to go to Georgia and work for his father. De Witt and McBride refused, and later at a heraing in magistrates' court the charges were dismissed and the two men freed.

On December 28, 1946, as DeWitt and McBride were leaving a motion pieture theater in Hartsville, DeWitt was seized by John Ellis Wilhelm and his 16-year-old stepson. Wilhelm had a gun and forced DeWitt into an automobile and took him back to the farm where he was held overnight in a barn.

The next morning DeWitt was awakened by John Ellis Wilhelm, who had a gun in his hands, and was told to get into the elder Wilhelm's car. DeWitt was then driven to a lumber camp near Monroe, Ga., where he was put to work.

SCORED TO RETURN

At the hearing before Judge Waring, DeWitt said he stayed at the lumber camp working for a $1 a day because "I was scared to go back to South Carolina."

Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation got to work on the case on information supplied by local authorities, found DeWitt and arrested the Wilhelms.

The father and son were indicted by a federal grand jury in the eastern district of South Carolina for transporting a kidnapped person across state lines and also for conspiracy to commit that offense. A third indictment charged John Ellis Wilhelm with peonage.

This was the first case in which the Lindbergh kidnaping law was invoked into a civil rights case.

Farmer Jailed for Peonage

FLORENCE, S.C. — John E. Wilhelm of Hartsville was sentenced Dec. 3 to a year and a day in Federal prison and fined $500 for holding a colored farm hand, James Dewitt, in peonage for almost a year.

Charges of kidnaping, on which Wilhelm and his father, James F. Wilhelm, both prosperous farmers in Darlington county, were indicted by a Federal grand jury, were dropped when the son pleaded guilty to charges of violating the civil liberties statue.

Lindbergh Law Invoked

When the Federal grand jury indicted the Wilhelms for transporting Dewitt across State lines, after seizing him forcibly, it was the first time that the Lindbergh kidnaping law was invoked in a civil rights case in the South.

Evidence brought out at the hearing before U. S. District Judge J. Waites Waring showed that in Dec., 1946, the farm hands, James DeWitt and Robert McBride, quit the Wilhelm farm and obtained work elsewhere.

The elder Wilhelm obtained a warrant charging the men with obtaining money under false pretenses by breaching a labor contract under which they had obtained salary advances and were thus indebted to the Wilhelms when they left their farm.

Compromise Rejected

The younger Wilhelm visited the men in the Hartsville jail and offered to drop the charges if they would agree to go to Georgia and work for his father.

DeWitt and McBride refused, later at a hearing in magistrate's court, the charges were dismissed and the men freed. The magistrate said the contract between Wilhelm and the men was illegal.

Armed Seizure

But, on Dec. 28, 1946, as DeWitt and McBride were leaving a theater in Hartsville, DeWitt was seized by the younger Wilhelm and his 16-year-old stepson at the point of a gun, forced into an automobile and taken back to the Wilhelm farm where he was held overnight in a barn.

The next morning, DeWitt was awakened by Wilhelm who had a gun in his hands, and ordered to get into the elder Wilhelm's car. He was then driven to a lumber camp near Monroe, Ga., where he was put to work.

FBI to Rescue

DeWitt testified at the hearing that he stayed at the lumber camp working for $1 a day because, "I was scared to go back to South Carolina."

Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation got to work on the case on information by local authorities, found DeWitt, and arrested the Wilhelms.

The father and son were originally indicted by a Federal grand jury in the eastern district of South Carolina for transporting a kidnaped person across State lines and for conspiracy to commit that offense. The son was indicted for peonage on his own admission.

1c 1947

Peonage (Texas)

Slave Plantation Probed in Texas

The Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat. 8-30-47

By J. DON DAVIS
(Texas Bureau)

HOUSTON, Tex.—The local branch of the NAACP is seeking Federal assistance in investigating and cleaning up alleged conditions of virtual slavery, which are said to exist on the Moore Brothers' Plantation located near Narissota, following an affidavit filed here by a 66-year-old sharecropper.

The Courier Pittsburgh Pa.
8-30-47

Acting on complaint of Will Jackson, who fled here with his wife after he said his life had been threatened by an overseer on the Moore plantation, the legal staff of the Houston Branch NAACP took steps to have a probe made after Jackson had made his assertion in the presence of NAACP officials and a Courier reporter. The farmer's charges have been given to the local United States District Attorney's office.

Moore place after he went to their residence seeking information as to which gin he should take a bale of cotton. Upon being told that the plantation owner was out of town, Jackson said the overseer stated that he would send a truck for the cotton.

The Courier

Refusing the offer he is said to have angered the overseer who threatened to get off his horse and beat him (Jackson) to death for "sassing" him. Jackson said the overseer told him that unless Moore whipped him when he returned, he would do so himself or kill him.

Pittsburgh, Pa.
Sat.

The sharecropper said he was certain the threat would be carried out because he had seen the overseer beat one Floyd Hill into a bloody mass and dared to leave the field because his day's cotton picking was unsatisfactory.

8-30-47

HILL AFRAID TO FLEE

Jackson stated that his wife agreed with him that he should leave the place at the earliest opportunity. Hill, he declared, declined to flee the Moore Plantation with him because he feared being arrested and brought back where Moore would take charge and beat them out of any future idea of "running off."

Jackson asserted that his present troubles at the plantation began because of his having a bumper crop of cotton coming up for harvest. He said that his share of money year before last amounted to $321.23, but that after his debt to the plantation commissary had been "figured" he received only $42.00.

Moore places all tenants' crops in the Federal Crop Insurance and deducts their fee from monies secured for the crops, Jackson said.

EVERYONE WORKS

Added to cruelty, threats and general unfairness, Jackson also charges that everyone is forced to work on the plantation. Women with infant children, and small children are put in the fields. Mothers with infants have to place them in boxes at the end of cotton rows or under the shade of cotton stalks or trees while they work.

The Courier

He stated that there are approximately sixty families living on the Moores' plantation where they work under conditions reminiscent of pre-Civil War days.

Jackson relates that he first went to Austin and reported his troubles to the FBI and asked for protection. They sent him to the Houston FBI in whose district he lives and told him in the meantime to get off Moores' holdings. From Austin, Jackson was sent to Houston by Atty. Kenneth Lampkin, president Morton and to other NAACP officials. Here he told his story to Mrs. Lula White, executive secretary of the local NAACP and to a Courier reporter.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

On the Moore plantation tenants work, eat and sleep by a bell's ringing until harvest time is over and "settling up time comes," he said.

Sat. 8-30-47

Houstonians, ex-residents of the area in which the plantation is located, expressed the opinion that the Jackson story is true, but refused to be named and quoted because they "might have to go back" to the area some day

New Day for the South

The Courier

Pittsburgh Pa.

Last week's decision of the U. S. Supreme Court upholding the contention of the South and West that their industrial development had been retarded by railroad freight rates favoring the North and East, and ordering a blanket correction, augurs well for the industrial future of the South.

A month from now the 1945 decision of the high court reducing classification rates by 10 per cent in the South and West, will prove a boon to those areas which have long suffered discrimination in favor of the more industrialized parts of the country.

It enables these areas to escape at last from a colonial status, and in so doing it cannot help but improve the economic status of the South and West.

Three-quarters of the Negroes in this country live in the South and from all indications will remain there permanently, but the steady mechanization of agriculture and the loss of the South's preeminence in the world's cotton market which will continue to displace hundreds of thousands of farm workers, demands added working outlets and facilities if these displaced workers are to find employment.

This the Supreme Court decision of last week will make possible by removing the economic discrimination which has kept the South the one-third of the Nation ill-fed, ill-clothed and ill-housed.

Much of the commerce which has flowed North and East will now be deflected to the South where climatic conditions and the development of the Latin American and African markets will enrich the Southern ports and encourage industrial development, from all of which Negroes will profit along with the rest of the people.

Added income to the South will enable it to provide better for its citizens, and there is a growing realization on the part of enlightened Southern businessmen and officials that there can be no real and fundamental prosperity for that region unless there is ample work and adequate working and living conditions for all regardless of color.

Jan 5-6-47

lc 1947

South Carolina

For Negroes to Think On

Negro Courier 1c

Money (such as it is) is abundant in South Carolina. Land too is abundant and money will buy it. The colored people have money. What are they buying with it?

The mechanization of agriculture goes forward rapidly. In South Carolina now are great tracts of land, "plantations" not planted to cotton or tobacco, that employ comparatively few laborers. The cotton picking and cotton cultivating machines will soon be introduced in large, level areas.

The old ways by which colored laborers lived are departing. Thousands of negroes migrated when the boll weevils arrived, and South Carolina became in a few years a "white state" by a large majority in its population. Mon 8-18-47

What will be the fate of the negro farm laborers? They can come to cities. They can, if they have the initiative and intelligence, set up and conduct industries. They have more money than white people had when, in the depression of the 1890s, white people placed the great textile industry on its feet.

In the North the negroes have numerous wealthy friends. Capitalists of the North assisted Southern white people in building mills whereby they escaped from industrial competition with negroes on farms. On the presumption that Northern white friends of negroes have confidence in their ability, they can and they will assist in setting up negro industries in the South.

Charleston, S.C.

Besides, negroes can buy small farms. (They have the money). Any able-bodied man can support a family on 40 acres of land in South Carolina. He may not make a fortune but, if he is thrifty and diligent, he can be independent, and that is more than most men drawing high wages in cities can say of themselves.

Unless negroes in the South shall prove ability to take care of themselves, when machines shall take the place of most of the hands in the cotton patches, what will be their destiny? They can go to other sections of the country. Travel is easy and cheap. They will find homes—in the Harlems. They will not find them or the means wherewith to maintain them, in the rural villages of New England, New York, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, or other Northern states.

News and Courier
Mon 8-18-47

The negroes can stay in the South. White people will and should help them. They should be encouraged in cooperative farming and other industries. Race separation will continue. It will be rigidly maintained.

Abraham Lincoln, more than any other human being, separated the races in the South. That which his labors did for the South gains strength as years pass and will not come to an end.

Charleston, S.C.

Agricultural Union Has Come Far in Ten Years

Ten years ago in Denver, a group of less than 100 men and women met to form the first international industrial union of food processing and agricultural workers.

Men and women, white and Negro, Spanish-Amreican, Filipino, Portuguese, native-born American, sugar workers, cotton choppers, men and girls from the California fruit canneries, from the Alaska fish plants, sharecroppers and workers from the packing sheds and the lettuce fields, came together for the first time in American working class history to make a union.

They called themselves by a long name, United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America, CIO, and they chose for their president a wiry ex-teacher, ex-agricultural worker

DONALD HENDERSON

named Donald Henderson.

Joining the CIO was one climax in a lengthy and at times bitter struggle these workers had carried on for recognition of their right to organize—recognition by the labor movement itself as well as by the bosses.

The top leaders of the American Federation of Labor, no less reactionary in 1937 than they are today, had consistently refused the food workers and the agricultural workers this right. Caught up in the wave of organizing that began in 1933, these people had repeatedly asked the AFL for a charter, had been just as repeatedly refused. Finally, in 1937, they got what they wanted from the CIO—an international charter giving them jurisdiction over food processing, tobacco, canning, edible oils, agricultural and related workers.

THE UCAPAWA, which whittled down its name to a handier FTA-CIO (Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers) in 1944, has come a long way since the Denver sessions of 1937.

Now, on the opening of its 6th biennial convention in Philadelphia Jan. 13, FTA-CIO has collective bargaining contracts covering more than 100,000 workers on a year round average. It has organized such food industry giants as Campbells Soup in Camden and Chicago, Libby's in California, R. J. Reynolds Tobacco in Winston-Salem, N. C., American Tobacco in Philadelphia and Charleston, S. C., Quaker Oats in the Midwest, a cottonseed oil chain subsidiary of the $250,000,000 Procter and Gamble soap trust, and hundreds of smaller plants and firms scattered all over the country.

Not many people know it, but its hard to eat lettuce in New York or Boston or San Francisco without eating an FTA product. You can't smoke a Camel unless an FTA member first makes it, and if your taste runs to cigars or even snuff, most likely it will be FTA too. In brief, FTA-CIO makes the groceries and the smokes and cans the fish and the fruit that go on America's table.

Those it doesn't make yet it will soon, for FTA-CIO has one of the fastest growth records of any union in the USA. This statement is backed up with figures from Secretary-Treasurer Harold Lane's books, showing a 100 percent increase in dues - paying membership since the last convention in 1944.

Much of this growth has come from FTA's part in the CIO Southern organizing drive, where the union has led in number of NLRB elections held and in number of workers organized. Most of these, so far, have been workers in the tobacco leafhouses, to whom FTA brings the first taste of freedom since Reconstruction. As one Negro minister—and first rate FTA organizer—expressed it: "God must have sent the FTA down here to handle the bosses He couldn't handle Himself."

BUT THE GROWTH of FTA goes on throughout the nation. More than any other CIO international, FTA is a far-flung affair, with potential members in every state of the union and organization in almost all of them. From Maine to California, from Florida to Alaska, FTA has members, organizers, and a future as big as the workingclass it serves.

'DEFEND LABOR,' SOUTHERN BI-RACIAL FARM MEET TOLD

MONTEAGLE, Tenn., Feb. 24.—Farmers should be "the first to defend the laboring man who is seeking—or striking for—a good wage," Aubrey Williams, publisher of the **Southern Farmer** and adviser of the late President Roosevelt, declared today.

Speaking to Tennessee Territorial Farmers Union leaders assembled at the Highlander Folk School from all parts of the state for a week-long interracial session, Williams pointed out that "without a high wage for labor, the farmer has no market at all."

Decrying the alliance of big industrialists and big farmers, "the farmers who own farmers," he stressed organization of small-family farmers as a step toward greater democracy for all.

Williams is one of a distinguished group of southerners, religious leaders and union representatives who are serving as group discussion leaders in the interracial sessions which have been conducted here since last Sunday.

SHOW UNITY

The discussions, which center on the problem of raising the standard of living of the Southern family-type farmer, have demonstrated that small farmers, given the facts, will work together to eliminate the color line and promote Negro and white unity. Resolutions have been passed at this meeting urging full cooperation of farmer, labor and church groups for a program to revive the FEPC and abolish the poll tax.

Although the Highlander Folk School, since its inception in 1932, has held scores of interracial sessions for industrial unionists, the present session is the first interracial farmers' resident meeting to be held in Monteagle.

Eating, working, sleeping and playing together for the first time, farmers of both races are successfully hurdling social taboos that stretch back to birth.

ALA. SHARECROPPERS' FIGHTING HISTORY

The Worker 1c

By Mary Southard

SIXTEEN years ago the first local of the Sharecroppers Union was organized near Camp Hill in Tallapoosa County, Alabama.

The story of the Sharecroppers Union is a proud page in the history of the Negro people of Alabama and in the history of the Communist Party, which helped to organize and win support for the courageous struggle of Negro tenants and croppers. N.Y. N4.

This movement grew out of the terrible distress of debt-ridden croppers and tenants, who were being driven off the land and forced to pick cotton for 35 cents a hundred pounds in the depression days before Federal Government relief and crop-reduction programs had been introduced.

The Sharecroppers Union with its demands for written contracts with landlords and decent wages grew in spite of the most bloody campaign of suppression since the heyday of the KKK in the 1870's.

On July 16, 1931, county sheriff and deputies broke up a sharecroppers' meeting in Camp Hill in defense of the Scottsboro boys. When it was claimed later that a Negro had wounded the sheriff, a violent manhunt was started, which resulted in the death of one of the union leaders the Communist Ralph Gray, and the wounding and beating of many others.

After this onslaught the Sharecroppers Union went underground, but it continued to grow and in a year claimed 500 members in Tallapoosa and Chambers counties. Sun. 6-15-47

★

IN DECEMBER, 1932, the next violent blow was struck at Reeltown, a few miles from Camp Hill. Union members gathered at the house of their leader, Cliff James, when the sheriff and a posse tried to take James' workstock away with a writ of attachment. The loss of workstock would have meant ruin for James and his family. In the ensuing fight, the sheriff and James were wounded and James later died in the jail at Montgomery, where he had been forcibly moved from the Tuskegee Hospital.

This encounter was followed by four days of violent mob attacks on the sharecroppers. "Mobs invaded the houses of several union members and were reported to have shot, killed and beaten several Negroes. Posses of more than 500 men were on a manhunt, tracking down Negro union members in the woods, where they were hiding for safety. Sheriff Young stated in an interview that he did not know how many Negroes had been killed in the battle. . . ." (from U. S. Deptartment of Labor Bulletin, Labor Unionism in Agriculture).

But the union refused to be terrorized out of existence. When time came for the trial of those arrested, members and sympathizers poured into Dadeville, and the judge postponed the hearings. Later the roads were blocked but the union men came along bypaths and finally the judge cleared half of the courtroom for them. Several union members were sent to prison as a result of the trial.

★

IN 1933 the Sharecroppers Union could count 3,000 members including a few white sharecroppers. In the fall of 1934 the Sharecroppers Union called its first strike of some 500 cotton pickers in Tallapoosa County, who demanded 75 cents (instead of 35 cents) for picking 100 pounds of cotton. They won their demand in a few areas.

In the next yar several thousand new members joined the union in adjoining Black Belt counties, and some 1,500 cotton choppers struck for $1 a day pay. Throughout this whole period, the Sharecroppers Union met with violent attacks from officials and armed mobs.

In 1935 a delegation from the union went to Washington to protest the attacks on the sharecroppers. They listed 20 strikers who were flogged and six killed, and charged that the State Relief Administration was sending in strikebreakers to the plantations.

In all but a few places the strikes were broken by this campaign of violence. But union leaders later demonstrated that the strikes had won some $40,000 increase in income for cotton choppers and pickers during that year. Sun. 6-15-47

In 1936 the Sharecropper Union was dissolved, with its membership going to the Farmers Union and the Alabama Agricultural Workers Union which later affiliated with UCAPAWA.

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THE SHARECROPPERS Union with its peak membership of nearly 10,000 in Tallapoosa County and four adjoining Black Belt counties was the instrument of a powerful revolt of the Negro croppers against the plantation system. It was the best organized and most militant movement among the Negro people in the Black Belt since Reconstruction

The planters have not forgotten the Sharecroppers Union, that started at Camp Hill and Reeltown. Neither have the Negro people. You can hear the story of the Sharecroppers Union in hundreds of homes throughout the five counties, and you will hear tribute paid to the Communist Party, whose several hundred sharecropper members were among the most valiant leaders and defenders of the Union.

In the courtroom at Dadeville on June 2, when the young Negro veteran, Australia Farrow, was arraigned, the long shadow of the Sharecroppers Union hung over the proceedings. Among the courageous Negroes who came to support Farrow by attending the hearing were some of the sons and daughters of the men who came through the bypaths and forced their admission to the same court room in 1932.

That is but one simple proof that the fighting tradition of the Sharecroppers' Union is still living in Camp Hill and Tallapoosa County.

1c 1947 Wages

Minimum Wage For Wisconsin Workers

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA) The State of Wisconsin last Tuesday became the first and only state in the union to set a legal minimum wage for household employees and agricultural workers, the Department of Labor announced. Jan. 14-47

The top rate of 45 cents an hour set by the state applies to workers in all the various types of employment in communities of 3,500 population or more, the Department said. The order will affect more than 135,000 women, it was said.